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Thursday, January 30, 2025

Otsego Library hosts various Valentine's Day events

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Valentine's Day is nearly upon us.

And at the Otsego District Library, there are events scheduled for patrons of all ages to help celebrate.

The Valentine's events kick off on Saturday, Feb. 8, when the library is hosting its "Make and Take Valentine's" program from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Geared toward children of all ages (yes, even you, adults), the program provides all the supplies for patrons to create as many Valentine's cards as their hearts desire.

"You get to make the cards and all the mess stays at the library," Otsego Library assistant director Diane DeVries said. "The library has had several of these events in the past and it's always fun to see how creative these young patrons can be."

On Thursday, Feb. 13, the library is providing a pre-Valentine's Day date-night opportunity for couples … or for anyone who likes good music and entertainment.

"Singing the Good Old Songs Again" features Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt performing classic and original songs from the folk era of the 1960s and into the 70s. The show, which begins at 6:30 p.m., includes audience interaction, participation, sing-along and comedy.

Jackie Davidson (left) and Gary Brandt will be at the Otsego District Library on Thursday, Feb. 13, for "Singing the Good Old Songs Again." The event will include singing, comedy and audience participation. (Photo provided)

"If you are looking for a date night, look no further than your local library," DeVries said. "Bring your date, family and friends to a fun, musical show.

"You will find this to be an entertaining, educational, humorous, fun and memorable experience."

Davidson was an original member of the Grammy Award-winning New Christy Minstrels, while Brandt is a folk performer and published songwriter.

Teens and tweens are the target audience for the "All You Need is Love" event beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14.

The program is the brainchild of the library's teen programmer, Jess Cook.

"Jess plans a lot of different activities for this age group," DeVries said. "The teens and tweens love to hang out at the library and these programs provide a fun, safe space for them.

"This event will incorporate snacks, music and art. The holiday parties are always popular and fun."

Attendees will also be put in a drawing for prizes.

"The library hopes that these fun Valentine's programs will not only get people excited for this special holiday, but also for their library," DeVries said.

DeVries also reminds patrons that the library runs programs throughout the year, not just for the various holidays.

"The Otsego District Library offers a wide variety of programs for all ages," she said. "These programs enhance the library's services to help promote literacy, provide community engagement, increase knowledge, learn new skills, be entertained and just plain have fun.

"The holiday programs provide a fun way to help achieve these goals."

For more information about Otsego District Library and its programs, visit otsegolibrary.org.

Plainwell seeks participants for upcoming Art Hop

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

On Friday, March 7, the City of Plainwell will host its annual Art Hop, which highlights the work of local artists in downtown boutiques, shops, restaurants and pop-up spaces.

And in preparation for the events, organizers are inviting artists of all kinds to participate.

"Art Hop Event is an opportunity to connect artists with our community, promote local art and provide exposure to artists of all levels," Plainwell community development manager Denise Siegel said.

"Right now, we are looking for artist of all types from painters to sculptors to digital creatives to writers to musicians to photographers."

Artists wishing to participate should reach out to Siegel at dsiegel@plainwell.org or (269) 685-6821. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Applications should include a brief bio of the artist as well as a description of the artist's work. Three to five samples of the artist's work or links to the artist's portfolio should also be included.

Participation is free.

"This event gives artists an opportunity to display their artwork to casual viewers and some serious collectors," Siegel said. "It's a fantastic platform to showcase talents, make connections and grow personally and professionally.

"It also provides an opportunity for networking with owners, patrons and other artists."

And while Art Hop provides an opportunity for artists to showcase their work, it also provides an opportunity for community members to experience a variety of art close to home.

"Community members attending the event can expect diverse art displays through a variety of mediums," Siegel said. "(Art Hop) allows community members to discover local talented artist and explore the unique shops, galleries, restaurants and coffee shops in downtown Plainwell."

According to Siegel, feedback from those who have attended Art Hop in the past has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Past attendees have said they enjoy the event, the artists and the artwork," Siegel said. "They mentioned how it provides them with a fun, free evening of joining together with friends and strolling the downtown streets of Plainwell, chatting with the artists and gaining a better understanding of the art world and how works are created."

PaperGator contest provides ODL opportunity to win prize money

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

When Andrea Estelle took over as director of the Otsego District Library nearly 12 years ago, one of the first projects she tackled was getting involved with the PaperGator Recycling program.

The partnership between the library and PaperGator has been a win-win, according to Estelle.

"By being involved with PaperGator, we're able to help the environment and make some money for the library at the same time," Estelle said. "The library is paid $25 per ton of recycled paper, and in our annual budget we earn about $1,000 to $1,5000 from recycling through PaperGator."

And now, the library has the opportunity to potentially earn even more money through its involvement with PaperGator.

From now through Friday, April 11, PaperGator is holding a Recycling Challenge to celebrate Earth Day.

"The library has the opportunity to earn exciting rewards by increasing our paper recycling volume," ODL said in its newsletter. "Plus, the library will earn double the usual payouts during the contest period."

Winners will be selected based on the largest percentage increase in paper recycling during the contest period. The top winner will receive $5,000, with $2,000 going to second place and $1,000 going to third place.

The winner will be announced on Earth Day, which is Tuesday, April 22.

"We hope that patrons will bring in more paper than they usually do to help us win the contest," Estelle said.

The library's two PaperGator bins—a second was added within two years of ODL starting the program due to its popularity with patrons—are located behind the library past the staff parking area.

Acceptable products include any paper—including junk mail—damaged book and magazines.

Cardboard items such as cereal boxes are not accepted by PaperGator.

"Sometimes we find cardboard boxes in the Gator and we have to try to fish them out as we do not want to lose our service with PaperGator," Estelle said. "We also recommend shredding any sensitive information or tearing off the sensitive information—like your name and address—before putting it in the bins since these are public dumpsters."

Given the community support for the program during the past dozen years, Estelle is hopeful that the library will do well during the contest period.

"The PaperGator has had great community support over the years," she said. "We usually have no trouble filling our bins. Since 2013, the library community has recycled over 700,000 pounds of paper. That is a weight equivalent to the weight of nearly 300 compact cars.

"We are excited about how the community has made a positive environmental impact through this program."

PaperGator has also provided the library with a useful way of recycling damaged books or books that come to the bookstore donation center in disrepair.

"Some items arrive in our donations with too much damage to be able to sell," Estelle said. "We encourage patrons to use the PaperGator for any damaged books that they want to recycle. It is also a great place to recycle ancient textbooks that are not sellable.

"We like that it is still a way to make some money for the library on books that do not sell or cannot be sold in our store."

INDEX

Classifieds B6
Puzzles / For The Record B7
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B3

Rapa one of Allegan's legacy businesses, opened in 1966

By Gari Voss

Allegan, Michigan's list of innovative entrepreneurs would not be complete without Rapa Electric. When Robert J. Rapa decided to open Rapa Electric, Inc. in August of 1966, farmers and manufacturing leaders in the area were delighted to have a place that could repair electric motors of all sizes and shapes.

Robert had learned the "trade" when he still lived in Dayton, Ohio. At the ripe ol' age of 14, he was already working with engines. Being from Dayton, he was well versed in the work of the Wright Brothers. In addition, hard work and perseverance were synonymous with how he lived his life.

In addition to his daily paper route, Bob worked for a local manufacturing company. His knowledge of and skills with electric motors were then expanded during his time in the Navy when he was stationed on a repair ship in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Upon returning to the States, he made his home in Allegan where in 1966, he opened Rapa Electric as a proprietorship. During this time, he not only grew his business, but became involved in the Masons rising to 32nd degree and with the Shriners where he volunteered for the Shriners Circus and motorcycle brigade earning money for the Shriners Children's Hospital.

Between returning from war and starting Rapa Electric, Bob had a side business in Martin called Eagle Electric. The eagle became the logo for Rapa Electric. At the same time, he worked with a business in Kalamazoo.

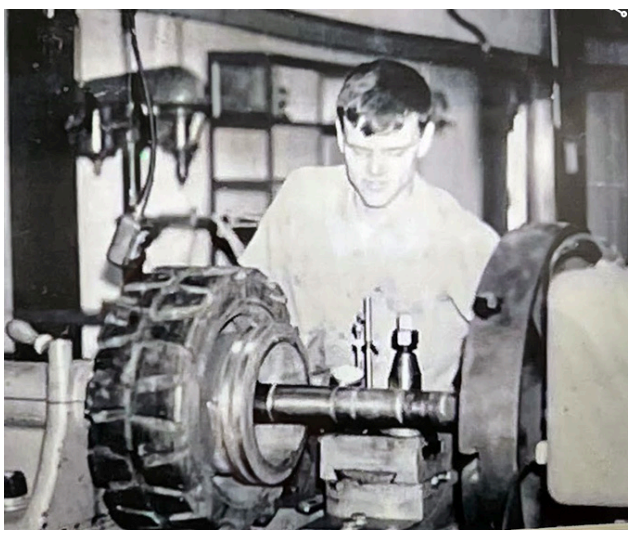
In the beginning, Bob repaired numerous types of smaller motors, but over time the motors got progressively larger, and so did the business.

The company under Bob's tutelage became the go-to place for agricultural and manufacturing operations. There did not seem to be any motor Bob could not conquer.

Bob was known to be a family man and loved to work with his children. He taught all six kids the business. Son Ron became the second generation to take the reins at the shop, but Tom shared that at least five of the six kids worked at Rapa Electric in some capacity.

"It was common for the girls to focus their efforts in the office," shared Tom. "The guys focused their efforts in the shop."

When thinking of what motors Rapa specialize in, Tome felt it would be Servo motors. The move to larger motors happened because smaller motors became cheaper, so rather than repairing one, the habit became just throwing it out and replacing it with another inexpensive motor.



Bob Rapa, founder of Rapa Electric, could be found in a manufacturing business in Dayton, Ohio at the age of 14. His skills expanded when he worked on a motor repair ship during WWII. This love of tinkering and fixing created a business in motor repair that has blossomed through three generations. Photo: Rapa archive

The economics proved to be a driving force for concentrating on repairing the larger, more expensive motor varieties.

Currently, Tom is the only Rapa to work in the shop, while his sister Shannon Walcott and his cousin Penny VanderKooi work in the office.

Rapa Motor does not build motors, but makes repairs and modifications. This is extremely helpful when dealing with a diverse clientele. These include industry, manufacturing, food processors, municipalities, and agricultural areas.

"We kind of have our hands in everything," shared Julie Peters, front office staff. "By being in West Michigan, we reach into Kalamazoo and a lot in Grand Rapids. We work with automotive manufacturing but support other manufacturing. We also have great relationships with local farmers. We might get a lot of our income from larger businesses, but as far as relationships, we service local farmers. The crops don't wait, and grain elevator motors must be functional. That means Tom seems to work 24 hours a day to make sure the farmers are up and running as quickly as possible."

"The concept of meeting the needs of customers has been 'drilled in their heads' over the generations," Julie voiced. "The company thrives because the owners and workers take care of people. An industry might lose $10,000 an hour if they don't get their line up and running."

"We have some of the same customers in the West Michigan area over the whole entire lifetime of Rapa," explained Tom. "The equipment has changed in areas like agriculture over the last 60 years. We work on the grain elevators and barn sweep equipment but also with the agitators for the wastewater treatment at the other end of the farm."

Looking forward, Tom's grown kids are seeing the dedication that is required to handle the business. He mentors the kids on thinking before entering a fourth generation. The college graduates are capable as is his sister, but it will take time to see if this becomes a passion for any of them.

In 1972, the proprietorship that was established by bob was incorporated and became Rapa Electric Inc. By 1988, Bob was turning the reins over to his children, and Ron stepped forward to handle the shop and business. In 2006, a huge decision had to be made.

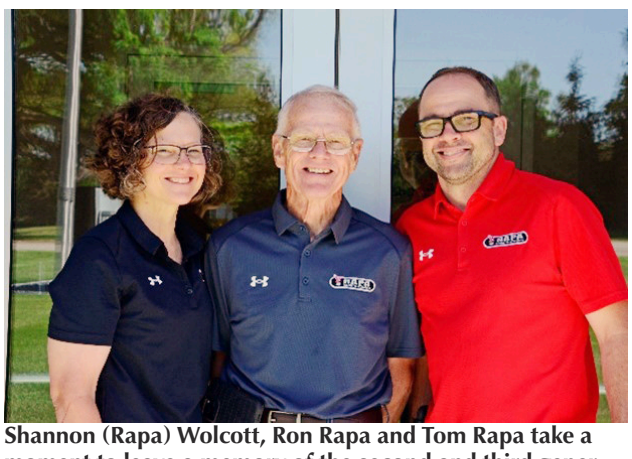
The fire of 2006 destroyed almost everything. The question became, "Do we shut down and walk away or rebuild almost from the ground up."

Ron and his crew decided to rebuild. This required operating out of three separate facilities while the new shop was under construction. In 2007, the new shop opened with 12,000 square feet in which to operate. Equipment was upgraded, and Rapa Electric continued servicing and supplying the electric motor industry in the West Michigan.

Ron's son Tom began stepping into his dad's shoes. After completing a business degree at Aquinas College, he went to Southwestern Technical College, a school in Minnesota that specialized in motor repair. The curriculum was designed around the electric motor repair world, but sadly, the school no longer exists.

"We belong to a trade group called EASA (Electrical Apparatus Service Association), so we have web trainings that are offered throughout the year," Tom explained. "Then we have a conference that is moved around the country where we are introduced to new equipment, see new things, and attend sessions to learn new things and sometimes old things. It is a great way to network with other people in the same industry."

Tom shared that there are other electric motor repairs shops in Western Michigan. "We help each other out. It is really a pretty friendly group that we work with."



Shannon (Rapa) Wolcott, Ron Rapa and Tom Rapa take a moment to leave a memory of the second and third generations of Rapa Electric in Allegan, MI. The business was started in 1966 by Ron's dad Bob and for almost 60 years, has been a life saver for businesses up and down West Michigan's coastline and beyond. Photo: Rapa archive

The area that Rapa Electric services is a radium of about 3 hours. "We are in Traverse City quite often. Northern Indiana and Detroit are regular areas, but people will ship things from around the country," explained Julie.

"Rapa has been around for so long that even when people move, we continue to service them," Julie added. "A company might be in Grand Rapids, but they set up another plant in Texas or someplace, and they will ship their motors to us for repair."

Successful generational businesses rely on being able to adapt to the current environment. Rapa has been able to maneuver through the changes in equipment and motors, but one of the most glaring changes has been in being able to hire employees that have solid training.

Tom had mentioned that the technical school in Minnesota where he received his education in motor repair no longer exists. The same can be said for technical schools across the United States. How can workers get properly trained since the trade schools are disappearing?

"Now that vocational schools do not exist anymore, a lot of training rests on vocational/technical centers that are identifying kids who are interested in learning a skilled trade. The other is hands-on training with seasoned workers," shared Julie. "We have some employees who have worked with us for over 40 years. They are a wealth of knowledge. So, that added to the training that the Allegan ESA Tech Center program gives us is really the direction we have taken."

"ESA offers some machining," added Tom. "We have some alumni working in our machine shop, but the Tech Center really does not have a program that is directly related to what we do day to day."

Tom continued, "Changes in the industry include more automation and efficiency design changes that have required updating equipment so we can test and program the motors."

"There is constant change," explained Julie. Even when Tom started, there were huge DC motors that would come through the shop. Those are more antiquated. Now we receive AC motors with different metals. With motors being made more cheaply, a lot of times, people won't go for repair. We have to keep our finger on the pulse to keep relevant and up to date. That means having the right equipment or bringing in new equipment and ideas. One way Tom does this, he being part of a smaller group of business owners throughout the United States that are not in competing markets with Rapa. Twice a year owners and a "right hand person" get together and are able to share new ideas and how the industry is going. Sharing ideas in other shops help one another. If there are concerns, there might be ways to help others out."

The industry is extremely tight-knit. All of the businesses in the smaller groups are associated with EASA. Owners reach out to be paired up with similar companies that are outside their own service area. Rapa can choose the different groups they wish to work with.

When asked about jobs that Tom has been proud of addressing, he shared that recently he did a job for an aerospace provider that they had never done before. The company did the design then Rapa did the winding so it would function the way the company wanted it to. Certain engineers said it wouldn't work, but it did work. "That was pretty cool."

Being part of a forward movement for an industry is something that helps a person feel they can stick a feather in their hat. But truly for the Rapa family, what makes a greater difference is when a local farmer calls and asks for help with a machine before they lose their crop, and you answer quickly then have them up and running ASAP.

Julie quipped, "Maybe that is thinking too small, but we would rather help the person in the community. It is fun and exciting to be part of larger projects and getting them done, but what gives special satisfaction is helping the local customer."

Like other successful generational companies, Rapa Electric was founded by a person with a passion. Bob loved working with his hands. Though osmosis brought about by just letting the kids tinker then participate in the business, interest was propagated and son Ron rolled up his sleeves to continue repairing motors. Ron involved his kids, and Tom catch the bug to keep using his hands to assist those needing assistance.

What might be as important as passing along a profitable skilled trade, is building a desire to assist members of the community who have needs or problems that can be solved.

The Rapa bio reads:

"With the change of Electric Motors and controls, we are constantly faced with new technology. We encourage our employees to continue their education to keep up with these changes, and we are continually expanding and updating our equipment and machinery to provide our customers with continued excellence in service and quality workmanship."

That desire may be the key to life.

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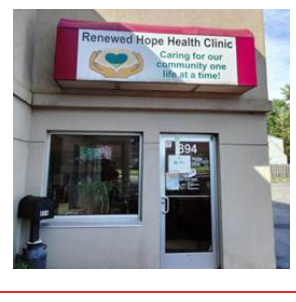

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Enjoy WinterFest with the Allegan County Snowmobile Club

By Cindy Sasser

The Allegan County Snowmobile & ORV Association is holding their annual WinterFest on Saturday, February 1st, snow, rain, or shine! And it's open to the public!

You don't even have to bring a snowmobile to attend. The event takes place from 9am to 6pm. There'll be a bonfire & cocoa bar, a bake sale, and a raffle with great prizes! Breakfast & lunch will be available from 9am to 4pm and a steak dinner from 4pm to 6pm! Not to mention a Fun Run.

This is one of many great events held by the Allegan County Snowmobile Club, formally known as the Allegan County Snowmobile & ORV Association (ACSORVA). I had a great conversation with the club President, Joe Shaffer.

When I asked how often they held events, he said, "We have an all you can eat breakfast buffet every Sunday from 8am to Noon in January and February. We have WinterFest, nor-mally the first Saturday in February (This year its February 1st from 9am to 6pm at our club house). We have SummerFest normally in July."

As a newcomer, I wanted to delve into the fundamentals of the sport as it sounds like a pret-ty fun and exciting way to enjoy the winter months.

I've never had an opportunity to ride a snowmobile but I imagine there's something quite exhilarating about flying a sled over white snowy hills, open and free, or down winding wooded trails. I've been on motorcycles half my life so I can only guess it's a frostier more bundled version of that experience. Most people talk about feeling a connection with nature and taking in beautiful winter scenery as you glide down groomed roads, or through for-ests, experiencing areas you'd never be able to without a sled.

My Q & A with Joe started with some basics:

What is recommended attire for someone new to snowmobiling?

"Warm snowmobile gear; including gloves, balaclava mask, bibs, heavy wind resistant jacket, thermal socks, and warm boots."

What is required?

"DOT approved helmet and eye protection."

What are your basic rules for riding?

"Ride safe, respectfully, and within the limits of your experience. Other rules can be found in the DNR snowmobile safety handbook."

I wondered if there were still a way to participate in the club rides if purchasing a snowmo-bile was out of reach or if you weren't yet sure you wanted that much commitment to one. So I asked Joe if you needed to own your own snowmobile or whether they could be rented from ACSORVA or an affiliate. He answered, "It is not required to be a member. To ride, you do need a snowmobile. Leaders RPM in Kalamazoo rents snowmobiles."

I checked around for rental prices and they aren't too bad. Most average $250 - $380 per day depending on which days of the week you rent them and you'll be required to pay a damage deposit. Pretty much like renting a car.

My next set of questions were about riding the trails and membership in ACSORVA. Becom-ing a member of ACSORVA is pretty simple; visit the website, acsorva.com, click on the 'Membership' link at the top, fill out the application, and pay the dues. Once they receive your application and payment, you're officially a member. The membership prices are ex-cellent, by the way!

The Club Profile from the website:

The Allegan County Snowmobile ORV Association (ACSORVA) is a participant in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Sponsor Program and is a mem-ber of Michigan Snowmobile ORV Assoc. (MISORVA). We are a volunteer organiza-tion dedicated to the success of snowmobile and ORV recreation in Michigan. We currently operate two trail groomers, maintain 98 miles of snowmobile trails, and promote ORV and snowmobile riding opportunities and access throughout Allegan County.

Are trails open daily to members or only on certain days?

"Trails may be used by anyone that purchases a Michigan Trail Permit and Registration; under the age of 18 you must also have a Snowmobile Safety Permit. The trails are only eligible to be open December 1st through March 31st (trail 592 is only eligible January 1st - March 31st). Our specific trail system also must be opened by ACSORVA, which can be found on our Facebook page and/ or by clicking on the 'Trail Conditions' link on our website, acsorva.com."

How many different trails are available and managed by ACSORVA? Is there a map?

"We manage approximately 100 miles of the approximately 6500 miles of snowmobile trails in Michigan that are In Allegan County, West of Hilliards. There are maps available for purchase at the club house."

How are the trails marked?

"By the Allegan County Snowmobile Club volunteers with De-partment of Natural Resource approved Signs."

What is the difference between a membership and the public events?

"We occasionally have club rides for members only, but most of our events are open to the public."

What is a day of snowmobiling like at your club? For example, how does the day go if people arrive for breakfast?

"People meet at our club, go for a ride, then meet back at the club."

Just a reminder that you don't have to be a club member to participate; these functions are open to the public so write them down! Breakfast buffet every Sunday morning and Winter-Fest this Saturday!

For more information visit the website at acsorva.com, scroll down, and click on the red button that reads, "Visit Us On Facebook." Their Facebook page is where you'll find all up-coming events and the details.

When I asked Joe what he personally loved about snowmobiling, he said, "I love to go riding with my wife and 3 daughters, and my friends. Snowmobiling is a great winter activity that is fun and gets you out of the house to enjoy the beauty of nature. We are able to see all sorts of private and public land that normally has restricted access and wildlife that you don't get to see cooped up in our houses."

Road Commission plans to tackle 44 primary road projects in 2025

By John Raffel Correspondent

ALLEGAN — Every January the Allegan County Road Com-mission holds "township" meetings to share a recap of the pre-vious year's work and project the year ahead. This year's nighttime meetings were January 6-8.

"During 2024, the road agency completed 17 primary road pro-jects spread among the six geographic areas the commission uses to share funding. Nearly 58 miles of primary roadway were addressed with at a cost of $6.6 million," former commissioner chairman James Storey said. " Funding for the projects came from the county millage fund and contributions from townships, many of whom have their own millages. This year the commission will tackle 44 primary road pro-jects spread among 147 miles of roadway with a projected cos of $11.2 million. The countywide millage fund will contribute $5.5 million to the projected costs with the balance coming from township and other sourced revenues.

"Based on the safety results f the three roundabouts in the county, the commission has future plans to install a roundabout at the intersection of 58 th and 136 th avenue, the site of a number of serious crashes. The commission is also pursuing grant funding for the relocation of the section of Lakeshore Drive that was severed by a Lake Michigan washout in 1988. The estimated $8 million project would fix a public safety hazard for emergency response agencies' response time. Shortly before leaving office earlier this month, Transportation and Homeland Security departments announced hundreds of millions of dollars for projects in Michigan.

Storey added; The Detroit News reported "About $346.9 mil-lion was allocated for Detroit, $70.4 million for Wayne County and $43.7 million for the state of Michigan," in one article and $10.5 million for a greenway project in Detroit. Elsewhere a reported $25 million was awarded to repair U.S. 131 in Grand Rapids. The Homeland Security funds were in response to natural emergencies. Hopefully, the washout repair caused by natural high lake levels, will earn the natural emergency ear of our federal agencies."

Windy conditions cause US 131 accidents

By John Raffel Correspondent

ALLEGAN — Wintry weather resulted in varous accidents on area freeways within the past several days

On Monday, shorty after 3 p.m., south-bound US 131 was down to one lane at the 63 mile mark due to a semi vs. semi crash. The right late (travel lane) closure was ex-pected to last about one hour and alterna-tive routes were recommended for the time being. No injuries were reported. Strong winds and limited visibility because of the blowing snow were believed to be contrib-uting factors in the crash.

As of 4:20 p.m.. all lanes were back open on south bound U.S. 131.

On Jan. 23, Northbound I-196 was closed mid morning with traffic being rerouted at the 36mm due to multiple crashes including a jack-knifed semi. Less than two hours later all lanes were open.

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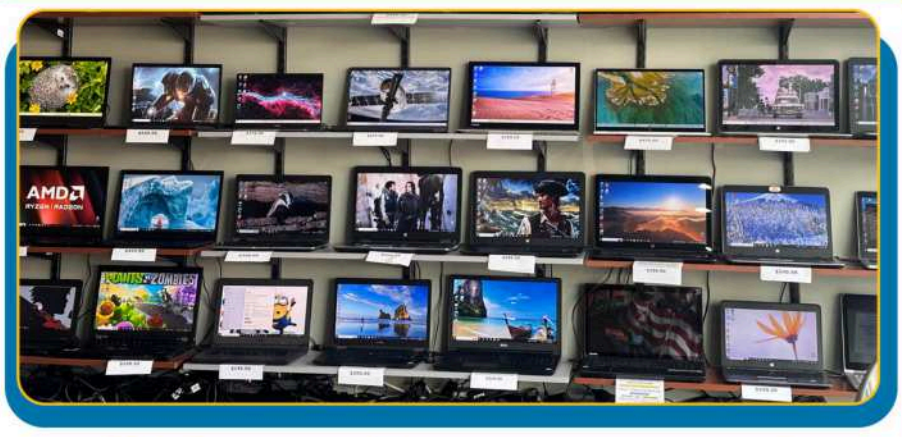

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of Jan. 28, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Women Leaders: Be sure to register for Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 11:30am-1pm: Connected Chamber Women's Event
Railside Pavillion 2500 76th St. SW Byron Center

Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga & Literacy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan

Sat., Feb. 1, 2025, 6:30pm: AED Celebration
Fennville High School Fennville

February: Peanut Butter Drive
Deliver jars of peanut butter or money to ACCF Office in the old City Hall on Locust Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Jan. 29, 2025, 2-4pm: Food Addicts Anonymous
Friends on Wednesday 200 Cutler St. Allegan
The FAA representatives will define food addiction, the symptoms, and the experiences of food addiction. All are invited.

Wed., Jan. 29, 2025: Fun at the Library
4pm: Teen Japanese Stab Art Book Binding. Students 5-12 grades can learn to do classic bookbinding with help from the Kalamazoo Book Arts. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Ages 2-5 can drop in to enjoy stories and activities.
6pm: Decluttering & Downsizing. Learn about the Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning with Susie Marsh, a professional organizer and licensed social worker. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs.., Jan. 30, 2025, 12-2pm: Leader Lunch & Learn
The LYNX Golf Course M-89 Otsego,
Non-profit organization leaders and teams are invited to the 2nd Annual Leader Lunch & Learn sponsored by the MACC (Multi-Agency Collaborative Council). Along with lunch, there will be a speaker from the Michigan League for Public Policy. Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 15th for $15 or email MACCAalleganfoundation.org for assistance with costs.

Thurs., Jan 30, 2025, 3-6pm: Walk-In DIY Sassy Shirt Bar
The Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
Choose a shirt, pick a design and press it on the spot.

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025, 6:30-8pm: Music Bingo Thursdays
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team or come alone and test your knowledge.

Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga & Literacy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she combines yoga, music and literacy for kids with adult caregivers.

Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 5-8pm: Silhouette Board Painting
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
Transform a plain plank wooden board into a stunning work of art. Register with Lori at cottageartsandeats@gmail.com.

Sat., Feb. 1, 2025, 6:30pm: AED Celebration
Fennville High School Fennville
The Glenn Public School will receive an AED during half time of the Never Forgotten basketball game.

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 11:30am-1pm: Connected Chamber Women's Event
Railside Pavillion 2500 76th St. SW Byron Center
Connected Chamber Women members will network over lunch and hear Shariem Saterfield share "The Power of the Pearl", an insightful and humorous discussion about how to "keep your shine" when dealing with challenges. For more info, contact Taylor at director@alleganchamber.com

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 10am & 2pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 7pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am-5pm: Downtown Plainwell Chocolate Stroll
Downtown Plainwell Main Streets
The City of Plainwell organized this chocolate themed event includes an Indoor Market along with chocolate treats with purchases, restaurant specials, and specialty drinks for the Social District.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
Come for a wonderful breakfast that will be served by donation only.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 2-4pm: Clarke, Meadow & Reed
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
A Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 Concert. The concert is free. Refreshment & alcoholic beverages will be available from the City of Allegan.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Hamilton Christian Reformed Church / Love INC
3596 47th St. Hamilton, 269 751-2533

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org, (269) 455-9452

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall

Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

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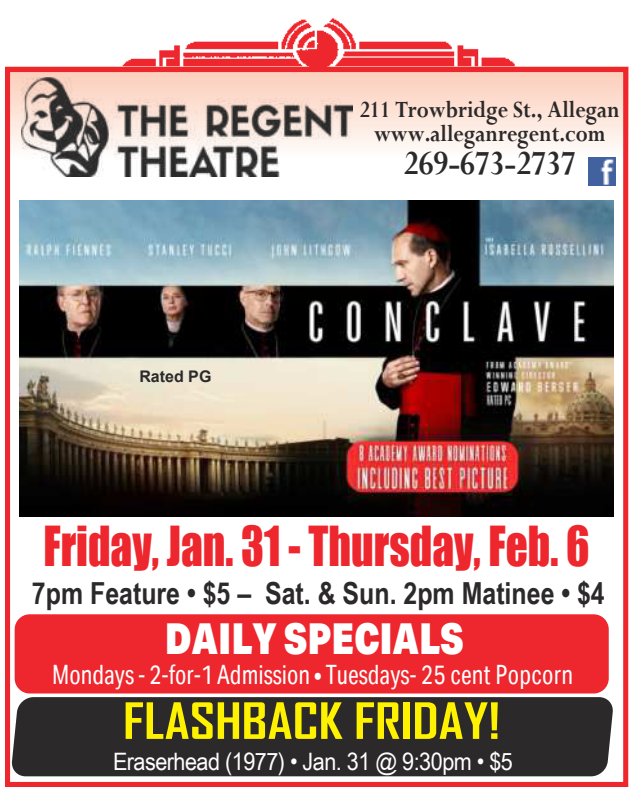
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FLASHBACK FRIDAY!
Eraserhead (1977) • Jan. 31 @ 9:30pm • $5

Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser For
WINGS OF GOD TRANSITION HOME
FREE WILL DONATION AT THE DOOR
Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 · 8 AM - 11 AM
Location: Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church
120 Pine St. Paw Paw, MI
Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate, & orange juice!
Facilitating Positive Life Change for Previously Incarcerated Women
wingsofgodinc.org
269.415.0777

2025 Peanut Butter Drive is underway

By Gari Voss

At the stroke of 2pm on Friday, January 24, 2025, guests began arriving at the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) on Locust Street to enjoy milk, cookies and conversation to celebrate National Peanut Butter Day. The party hosted groups of supporters from various agencies and organizations that work with clients who benefit from the work of the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaborative.

The Collaborative is one of many groups under ACCF's wings. The Peanut Butter Drive is organized by ACCF's Community Impact Officer Lauren Hunt-VanderPloeg. The Milk & Cookies celebration was advertised, and all were invited for a wonderful spread of cookies from Mae's Bakery in Plainwell.

"The 2024 Peanut Drive was able to collect over 6,300 jars of creamy delight and raised $2,500 that was used to make bulk purchases of more than 1,600 jars," shared Hunt-VanderPloeg. "The 2025 Peanut Butter Drive hopes to garner 6,000 jars that will be distributed among the collaborative's partners."

Peanut butter is a creamy, nutty treat enjoyed around the world. There are many ways to celebrate the day just to have some fun. People create their own peanut butter sandwiches by adding other delights like sliced bananas, honey or chocolate chips… or just some good ol' home-made jam. Others add it to smoothies, or bake it into cakes and cookies, or create peanut butter sculptures.

No one knows quite the history of Peanut Butter Day, but there are enthusiasts who mark it on their calendar. The US Food and Drug Administration keeps a watch on any ingredients added and ensures that the natural brands contain at least a 99% peanut base.

The Allegan County Food Pantry uses this day to begin their Peanut Butter Drive which will last until the end of February. This is because peanut butter is full of nutrients. It is high in protein and other recommended requirements for health. A 3.5 ounce, or 100 gram portion, contains 22.5 grams of protein which is quite substantial for a plant food.

Natural peanut butter is low in carbs, so it is recommended for a keto, low carb, and other diets. It is a solid option for people with type 2 diabetes because it does not raise blood sugar. A portion is high in healthy fats which are great for active children and adults.

That 3.5 oz portion of peanut butter also provides the body with 60% of the daily need for Vitamin E, 84% of Vitamin B3, 29% of Vitamin B6, 18% of Folate, 37% of Magnesium, 56% of Copper and 65% of Manganese. Add to those, solid amounts of biotin, vitamin B5, iron, potassium, zinc and selenium.

Peanut butter may not meet the nutritional levels of spinach or broccoli, but the food pantries around Allegan are delighted to see the jars arrive on their shelves during these cold months of the year.

Donations of jars of peanut butter can be dropped off at numerous locations around Allegan County. Check https://alleganfoundation.org/allegan-county-food-pantry-collaborative/peanut-butter-drive/ or the ACCF Facebook page for the locations or drop off at the ACCF office at 112 Locust St. Though jars of peanut butter are welcome, monetary donations can help dollars go further because the Pantry Collaborative's partners sell at bulk prices. Monetary donations can be sent to the Allegan County Community Foundation, 112 Locust St., Allegan, MI 49010 with a notation for the Peanut Butter Drive. Donations can be made online at alleganfoundation.org.

Spread the Love. Representatives from organizations around Allegan County stopped at the Allegan County Community Foundation for Milk and Cookies from Mae's Bakery in Plainwell to celebrate National Peanut Butter Day. Lauren Hunt-VanderPloeg welcomed representatives from Yankee Springs Dental, Allegan County Transportation, Mediation Services, and Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence.

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Local author celebrates new book at Fennville library

The public are invited to join local author Joan Donaldson in celebrating the publication of her newest book, Ae Fond Kiss, with a launch party at the Fennville District Library on Tuesday, February 11th. The event will run from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM and will be hosted by the Fennville Friends of the Library. Refreshments will be provided.

Ae Fond Kiss tells the story of Lizzie Walker and William McLeod who live in the settlement at Rugby, Tennessee. Both are grieving the losses of people close to them, and though they find comfort and hope in each other, they are shadowed by secrets. Lizzie is harassed by a man from her past, and William fears that previous mistakes will destroy his growing relationship with Lizzie. They must learn to navigate the complexities of their pasts and their relationship, while also planting roots in the vibrant community around them. Ae Fond Kiss is Donaldson's third novel set in the Utopian community of Rugby. Readers can learn more about the author at her website www.joandonaldson.com.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event, or they can be purchased at Root Cafe, Reader's World, or online on the publisher's website at www.blackrosewriting.com/books.

Allegan County drain office is moving

The Allegan County Drain office has moved from the Allegan County Courthouse to its new loca-tion at the County Services Building at 3283 122nd Avenue Allegan, MI 49010. Beginning Monday, January 27, 2025; the Drain office will be ready to serve the public Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. County Services Building 3283 122nd Avenue Allegan, MI 49010. For more information, contact the Drain Office at 269-673-0440 or County Administration at 269-673-0239.

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123NET has started connecting select Allegan County residents. Check your address to see your estimated service availbility date.
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MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 31, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN'S CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2020-2024 TO OUTLINE PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING TIED DIRECTLY TO MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S (MSHDA) CDBG HOUSING ACTIVITIES.

Michigan is required to prepare a formal substantial amendment to the State of Michigan's Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (the Consolidated Plan). The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which those needs will be addressed. The formal amendment being proposed covers FY23 and FY 24 allocations covered by the Michigan Consolidated Plan 2020-2024. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the Michigan Consolidated Plan and soliciting comments from the public regarding the plan and its subsequent amendments. CDBG funds will be utilized for MSHDA's CDBG Housing Initiatives to assist with statewide housing needs.

The **comment period** will commence on January 31, 2025, and end March 3, 2025, and will be limited in scope to the amendment parameters as outlined below. **In-person public hearings** will be held at the MSHDA Lansing office, 735 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and at the MSHDA Detroit office, 3028 W. Grand Boulevard 4-600, Detroit on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, from 4 -5 pm. **A virtual public hearing** will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 244 047 245 209, Passcode: S6VD2JN2 **OR** call in (audio only) +1 248-509-0316, 841259158#, Phone Conference ID: 841 259 158#

Introduction
The amendment will broaden the use of the CDBG funds and redefine the process and dollar amount that can be allocated per award. This amendment will restrict all FY23 and FY24 CDBG awards to strictly housing activities tied to all national objective categories and the administration and technical assistance necessary to implement projects in non-entitled areas. A link to the proposed amended plan can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/michigan-consolidated-plan.

Details
This proposed substantial amendment covers the 2023 and 2024 CDBG annual allocations. The proposed amendment line items within non entitlement areas are:

1. CDBG grants may be competitively and/or direct funded at an amount not to exceed $1,500,000 per agency award.
2. CDBG grants may be used for homeowner rehabilitation on occupied single-family homes including supporting infrastructure enabling access to municipal infrastructure as a component of the rehabilitation scope.
3. CDBG funds may be used for reconstruction of comparable previous residential units on vacant lots based on HUD allowable terms.
4. CDBG funds may be used for infrastructure activities directly tied to the creation of housing. Each proposed activity must have a MSHDA financed housing construction component serving 80% AMI or below households and will be awarded based on a HUD allowable national objective being met.

Method of Distribution
This program allows for the MSHDA CDBG program to direct fund awards throughout the non-entitled portions of the State of Michigan to local units of government.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the proposed amendment to the current Michigan Consolidated Action Plan. Information gathered during the written comment period will be used to substantiate a formal amendment to the Michigan Consolidated Action Plan.

Individuals and organizations may submit written comments to Tonya Joy, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. **Written comments must be received no later than March 3, 2025**. Comments can also be submitted to the MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator via e-mail to mshda-cdbg@michigan.gov.

Copies of the Michigan Consolidated Action Plan may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website link above.

Special Assistance: Feedback is encouraged from mobility-challenged individuals. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the MSHDA Neighborhood Development Division at 517-335-2524 to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Equal Opportunity Lender

Defund NGO's, and do it now

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

If you've been watching the crisis at our southern border, you might wonder what has happened to the millions of illegal immigrants that crossed the border the last few years. Where do they go, and how are they supported you may ask?

Well, you as an American taxpayer pay NGO's (non-governmental organizations) to transport, feed and house the illegal immigrants. The NGO's that handle these tasks are funneled millions and sometimes billions of dollars from the Department of Homeland Security or Health and Human Services.

Some leaders of these NGO's are former staffers from the Obama presidency. For instance, Krish Vignarajah, a senior policy advisor to both Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama took over Global Refugee which has received over a billion dollars in grants to settle illegal immigrants. Her salary is $643,000 a year.

That pales in comparison, however to Catholic Charities which has received $1.4 billion in taxpayer money. And Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is not far behind. Both of these also receive millions of dollars from local Catholic and Lutheran congregations as well.

Charles Marino, a former DHS advisor under former President Obama, said its impossible to track how many taxpayer funded NGO's are operating along the southwest border.

Marino added, "So now they have turned it over to the NGO's, not just to coordinate the shelter and the food, but also the travel, ultimately we're going to see billions of dollars of taxpayer money go to waste through fraud and abuse because there's no oversight through FEMA."

One report noted NGO's also reach out to know got-aways to offer financial assistance. It's a big business and the more illegals they can help, the more the feds will pay them. On wonders if a few unscrupulous NGO's aren't working with cartels.

A report in 2024 from the Inspector General found that $110 million from the American Rescue Plan for migrants at the southern border was misspent- in come cases it was given to gotaways that eluded border patrol.

And I sit here and wonder why we have left our borders open for so long. Republicans claim the Democrats were seeking new voters, expecting migrants to register to vote and become Democrats. I don't buy that.

The old axiom "follow the money" is again so true. Certain individuals and organizations have gotten rich, while the rest of us are paying for them to do so. This seems to be a common thread throughout our federal government and hopefully our new administration can put a stop to it.

Here's what needs to be done. Obviously step one is to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States. That is already happening. Then the agencies that funnel money to the NGO's need to be put on notice- no more taxpayer money goes to NGO's period. The money can be used for disaster relief- I know some folks in the Los Angeles area and western North Carolina that would welcome financial help.

Will our new administration cut NGO funding? Only time will tell.

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

ShopLocal

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

By now, all of us have seen the bleak photos from the fire zones in southern California. Thousands of homes and businesses, churches and schools, have been reduced to rubble. Other places have been so badly damaged they may have to be pulled down. Several hundred thousand people have been displaced. Overall, it is too similar to photographs from devastated cities in World War Two, in Gaza, and elsewhere around the world.

We have all seen the television interviews with some of the people who have lost everything. Like many others who have survived manmade or natural disasters, many of them stand in front of what was their home, having no idea what they will do next, where they will live, or whether to stay and rebuild or start over in a new location. Everything is gone. Everything. When asked about their losses, nearly all of them bravely say, "The important thing is that we are alive."

To be sure, in one way or another, all of them will settle down to the hard work of rebuilding their home. They will have to acquire new furnishings, clothes, and everything else most of us need for daily living. The one thing they will never get back are the icons that connect them to their past.

You and I have these tangible reminders in our homes and life. Perhaps the most important ones are the photo albums and pictures. They are irreplaceable. However, so also are many of the tangible things that remind us of special times or special people. For example, I have two lamps that are special because they were given to me by people who were important. On the speaker, I have a cheap hard plastic black falcon, Horus, the Egyptian god of their kings. I bought it when we were in Egypt. It is a cheap trinket to anyone else, but for me, it is a reminder of the tremendous fun Pat and I had visiting the country.

JM Barrie, the author of Peter Pan wrote a short story he entitled, The Old Lady Shows her Medals." It became a stage play, and then a movie. It is a very sad tale set in England near the end of WWI, when an older widow invites a young soldier to her home for dinner. She wanted his company and in return she wanted him to see her medals because they were important to her. He reluctantly agrees, and she produces several wine corks. She tells him she treasures them because each one had a connection with a soldier who had died in the war. The corks were her way of remembering the men who died for their king and country.

You could say or write the same thing about even the most mundane objects that sometimes get pushed to the back of a drawer or closet. Perhaps you have done that. More important icons are protected by taping a small note on the back side of the object, to let the recipient know they are important. Maybe they will keep it; maybe not. However, you and I take quiet comfort in knowing that we have done our duty to tell a story about them for a future generation or two.

We do it for a very selfish yet hopeful reason. If our descendants see these items, perhaps they will make the connection with us, and remember us long after we are gone. It is our quest for at least temporary immortality.

Ultimately nearly all things will eventually be worn away or disappear, and we know it. That is one reason I deeply appreciate a short scene from Downton Abbey where Mr. Carson and Mrs. Hughes are talking about life and the advancing years. He told her, "The business of life is the acquisition of memories. In the end, it is all we have left."

Having seen the news segments on the fires in California, the hurricane flooding in western North Carolina, and countless other tragedies around the world, Mr. Carson's words linger in my mind.

Even before hearing Mr. Carson's comments about acquiring memories I started creating a series of annual photo albums I call "The Book of Pat." They are a pictorial history of the year with lots of pictures of Pat with friends, at parties and events, and the most ordinary of days. Occasionally we go through a volume, remembering and laughing, and then a little saddened when we see a photograph of a friend who has passed away. It is our way of keeping memories alive.

In time we will both be gone and those albums will fall into the laps of her two adult sons and their families. They live away, and my hope is they will enjoy seeing some of the people and events in their mum's life.

Some nights when I am out for a walk, or late at night before Mr. Sandman comes calling, I make an intentional effort to recall people and events out of the past and run the memory tapes through my mind. Perhaps you do that, too. One memory seems to lead to another, and I find it another way of staying connected with the past.

All of this, I know, is ultimately futile. The icons we treasure today will eventually disappear. And so will memories. But for the time being, Mr. Carson was right: The business of life is the acquisition of memories.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump signal separation of church and state

Dear Editor:

I never in my wildest dreams believed that President Trump by not placing his hand on the Bibles held by his wife during his swearing in ceremony showed, by action, his belief in the Separation of Church and State! I've wondered for over 70 years, why all former Presidents and other political figures at all levels of Government, put their hands on a Bible when it is not mandated. GOOD FOR PRESIDENT TRUMP!

Eric Erickson

Poor choice of words

Dear Editor:

I must respond to your column last week in which you stated that ..."Inauguration Day in which President Donald Trump will be crowned the 47th President" Wow!!

I have never heard or read of a President ELECT as being crowned instead of inaugurated. Will he be wearing a crown? It is an inauguration not a coronation-he will be President Trump not King Trump.

I am not surprised by your choice of words. Months ago, I was shocked by your choice of words in a column in which you listed "funny" things that had happened in recent news. One of the items was of a 77 year old woman who crashed into a carriage while riding a bike on Mackinac Island. I was sickened -the woman died - how is that funny?!

Paula Manning

Trump's administration determined to reform government

Dear Editor,

The 2024 General Election has concluded, but the ride has just begun. Now we undertake the most difficult task of government reform in our lifetime. As we are currently experiencing in Michigan, our national government is but a shattered remnant of the republic that it had once been. The extreme un-American efforts of the left have nearly devastated our nation and we now must resurrect it quickly. Nature abhors a vacuum and with America being left as the impotent joke it currently is, if we don't rebuild quickly some other power will replace us in the world order.

The new Democratics have already begun to repeat their obstructionist behavior from President Trump's first term. A lawsuit has already been filed against the Trump administration's immigration policies that are unquestionably constitutional. The liberals only concern is to impose their will on the American people with no regard to our national interests or the desire of the American citizens. The Biden/Harris regime filled nearly every cabinet and judicial appointment with unqualified weaklings whose only qualification was that they checked off a particular DEI requirement. Now they have the audacity to complain about every cabinet candidate President Trump has chosen, as if their opinions have value, which they no longer do.

Corporate media is experiencing never-before-seen layoffs, cut wages and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue culminating with the liberal cable networks divesting themselves of certain liberal cable news channels and personalities.

Since the November election results, the left's flagship media outlet CNN has lost half of its preelection market value and is continuing to bleed money while experiencing hundreds more layoffs. Chairman/CEO Chriss Licht has been fired and major personality Wolf Blitzer has been relegated to the 10AM morning slot while, in hopes of Jim Acosta terminating his own contract, CNN has moved him to the midnight broadcast slot. At this time CNN's viewership lags somewhere behind the Hallmark Channel and the Cartoon Network.

As of this morning, polls from CBS, Pew and others state that around 60% of Americans agree with President Trump's stated agenda and cabinet picks. Those voting for president Trump included not only a noticeable number of registered democrats and independents but an unusually significant number of Hispanic, Muslim, Black, union members and young voters. This election was evidence that not only is the Republican party indeed a large tent but the majority of the American public is concerned with real issues and not social ideology and identity politics.

Despite the indisputable popular vote and electoral college majority election victories throughout our nation, too many on the left are now questioning the intellect of Trump supporters or that the black Trump supporters are not black enough or other such pathetically desperate and small-minded claims. Since the election, the overall behavior of much of the new Democratic party has been frighteningly reminiscent of the Democratic party of post American Civil War and the early 20th century.

The first Trump administration did not accomplish nearly what they should have due to relentless, baseless and questionably legal lawsuits and investigations. Just as when one acquires a new company, you evaluate the employees and determine who is an asset who is a liability and those who are not an asset are immediately shown the door. It appears that our 45th/47th president recognized the errors in his first term and is surrounding himself with competent and loyal people while removing the dead weight and moving forward. For those on the left that believe they will continue to bully and deceive the American public it appears they are experiencing a harsh reality.

The American voters have spoken decisively in support of our Judea/Christian principles and America first priorities and the sooner we get underway the better.

"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous."-Frederick Douglass

John R. Young

Obituaries

Scott Arthur Lanxon, 69

Scott Arthur Lanxon, a man of adventure and the outdoors, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2025, in Ashley, Michigan, at the age of 69. Born on May 20, 1955, in Holland, Michigan to his late parents, Garrett and Evelyn Lanxon.

Scott has now returned to being in eternal rest with his beloved wife of over 40 years, Betty Lanxon. His legacy continues through his children, Ryan Ver Hoeven and his wife Julie, and Brent Ver Hoeven; his three siblings, Larry, Lynn, and James; and his adored grandchildren, Bailey, Abbigail, Elizabeth, and Matthew, who brought immense joy and pride to his life.

After serving his country with honor in the United States Navy, Scott returned to his roots in Michigan and dedicated many years as a skilled machinist at the Acro Factory. His work was not only a profession but also a craft he took great pride in, contributing to the industry with precision and care.

Scott's passion for the outdoors was undeniable. He was an avid

Scott Arthur Lanxon

hunter, fisherman, and boater, finding solace and excitement in the natural world. His love for these activities was infectious, and he often shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with friends and family. Scott's skill in training hunting dogs was renowned, and his companions were a testament to his patience and expertise. You could often find Scott outside on his deck, listening to his favorite classic rock music. He enjoyed music more than television, including playing guitar in his spare time.

Scott will be remembered as a man who embraced life's adventures with open arms. His adventurous spirit was not just a trait but a way of life that inspired all who knew him. He approached every day with a sense of possibility and encouraged others to do the same. Scott's stories of exploration and discovery will continue to be told by those who loved him, keeping his memory alive.

As we bid farewell to Scott Arthur Lanxon, we celebrate a life lived with passion and love. His presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit will continue to guide and influence the lives of his family and friends. Scott's journey through life was one of purpose, joy, and adventure, and his story will be cherished and remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A private service will be held to honor Scott's memory. His family takes comfort in knowing that he is now at peace, surrounded by the natural beauty he so loved in life.

If you would like to have more information on services please contact Julie at 616-329-4362.

James J. Larson, 71

James J. Larson, age 71, passed away on December 6, 2024, after a months long battle with cancer. Jim was born in Kalamazoo on December 22, 1952, the second of three children born to David and Janet Larson. He moved to Plainwell as a toddler, and grew up there, graduating from Plainwell High School in 1971. While in high school, he played baseball, basketball, and tennis, reaching the state level in tennis his junior year. As a young man he enjoyed hanging out with his friends: canoeing, golfing, and

James J. Larson

sitting around a campfire drinking beer. Later on he enjoyed taking care of his yard, and watching his boys play by the pool, again with beer in hand. In his later years Jim was somewhat of a homebody, hanging out with his wife, Peggy at their home in Parchment. Jim is survived by his wife Peggy, and three sons and their families: David (Jane) and their children Nathan and Mikayla; James and children Izzy, Charlotte and Viktor; and Joe(Kristi) and their son Mason, as well as sisters Mary and Linda.

Per his wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no service.

Michael Alfred Melms, 79

Michael Alfred Melms, 79, of Allegan, passed away on Wednesday evening, January 22, 2025, after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was born May 19,1945, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Alfred and Edith (Parry) Melms.

Mike was a long-time member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan. In his youth, Mike enjoyed competitive swimming, scouting and youth model clubs. A lifelong automobile enthusiast, he also enjoyed playing guitar, mowing his lawn, and in younger years, camping and hobby farming.

After graduating from Redford High School in 1963, Mike attended Central Michigan University, where he met and later married Judy Person. Immediately prior to being wed, Mike's Army Reserve unit was activated. He was deployed to Vietnam two weeks after getting married. Mike returned to Detroit after being honorably discharged from the United States Army. He started a family, went back to school, and in 1976, graduated from Lawrence Tech. with a BS in mechanical engineering.

In 1977, Mike moved his family to Allegan after purchasing an 80-acre centennial farm from Judy's side of the family. He began working at Kalamazoo Stamping & Die as an engineer and was eventually promoted to director of engineering. The next few decades were spent remodeling and beautifying the historic farm as his family grew and expanded.

In addition to his parents, Mike was preceded in death by his wife, Judith (Person); son, Micah; and brother, William (Bill) Melms.

Mike is survived by his long-time girlfriend, Linda Tooker; son, Andrew and wife, Jennifer (Winters); son, Carl; daughter, Carolina and husband, Jose Orozco; along with six grandchildren: Svan, Touri, Cajsa (Melms), Santiago, Alejandro and Mila (Orozco).

A memorial service will be held on Monday, February 3rd at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan, MI. Public viewing from

Michael Alfred Melms

10am -12pm followed by funeral service from 12pm - 1pm. Graveside service at Sheep of the Good Shepherd cemetery followed by luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wings of Hope Hospice online at: https://wingsofhopehospice.com/donations/online-donation/

or by mail to:
Wings Home
c/o Wings of Hope Hospice
530 Linn St.
Allegan, MI 49010

CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESHIRE, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Cheshire Township Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a public hearing/meeting for February 20, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matters:

1. The application of Richard and Denise Stojak for variance relief from requirements of the Cheshire Township Zoning Ordinance associated with a proposed new 30' x 24' two-story detached garage on a waterfront lot (Duck Lake) commonly known as 160 Peterson Drive, Gobles (parcel no. 0303-200-024-00) in the R-2 Residential District. The applicant is requesting to construct the proposed garage on the street-side of the subject property within the required side yard setback area with a setback of 0' (10' is the required minimum), and within the required front yard (street-side) setback area with a setback of 10' (50' is required). The existing small cinder block shed presently existing within the building site of the proposed garage is proposed to be removed. The ZBA will consider this variance application pursuant to the variance standards specified in Section 19.8.1 of the Cheshire Township Zoning Ordinance, and any other applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. This matter may also involve variances from other requirements in the Zoning Ordinance, as may be determined based on the facts presented at the public hearing.

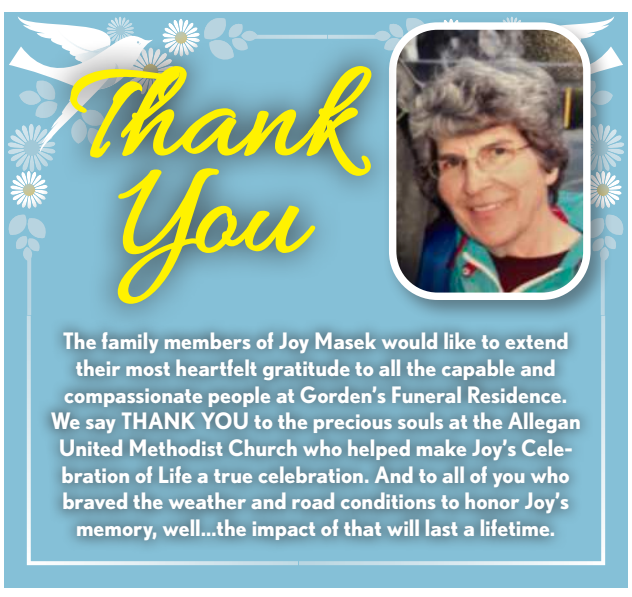
2. Such other and further matters as may properly come before the Board.

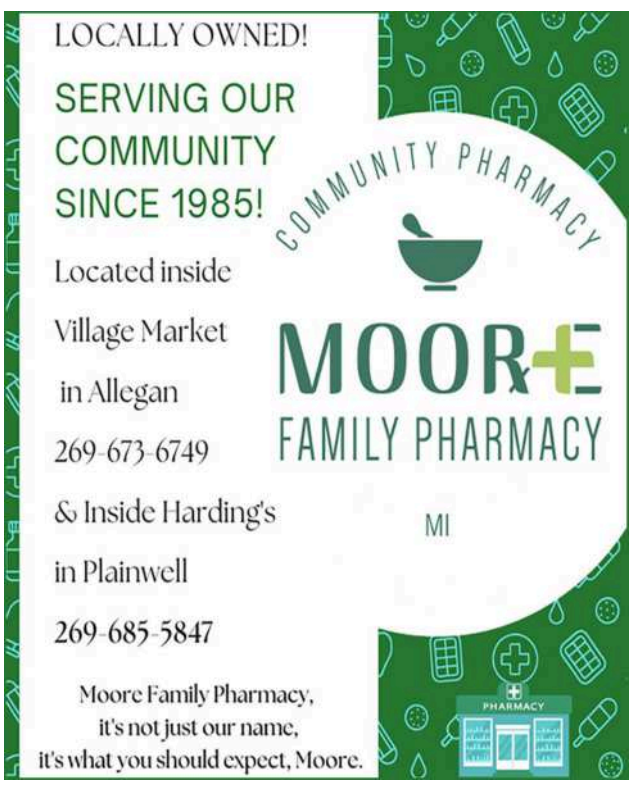
The public hearing/meeting will be held at the Cheshire Township Hall located at 471 41st Street, just north of 104th Avenue in the Township of Cheshire, Allegan County, Michigan. The Cheshire Township Zoning Ordinance and Map, and the variance application(s) materials, may be examined by contacting the Township Clerk, and may also be examined at the hearing/meeting.

Written comments regarding the above referenced matters may be submitted to the Township Clerk prior to the hearing/meeting, and may also be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing/meeting.

Cheshire Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing/meeting to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk.

Jodi Pinnell, Clerk, Cheshire Township
1061 37th Street, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 521-3440


Thank You
The family members of Joy Masek would like to extend their most heartfelt gratitude to all the capable and compassionate people at Gorden's Funeral Residence. We say THANK YOU to the precious souls at the Allegan United Methodist Church who helped make Joy's Celebration of Life a true celebration. And to all of you who braved the weather and road conditions to honor Joy's memory, well...the impact of that will last a lifetime.



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Plainwell's Daughter Dance scheduled for Feb. 8

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

2025 DAUGHTER DANCE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
JOIN US AT PLAINWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2025
Daughter Dance
6:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM FOR PICTURES ONLY
SCAN ME
REGISTER ONLINE!
JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF FUN FOR PCS K-6TH GRADE DAUGHTERS. EVENT INCLUDES FORMAL DIGITAL PHOTO, DJ, SELFIE STATION, REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE & A FLOWER
$30 PER COUPLE
($10 EACH ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER)

The upcoming Daughter Dance hosted by Plainwell Community Schools will be the first for Andrea Murphy as the district's Community Education director.

That, however, doesn't mean she's unfamiliar with the event.

"I still remember when I would go with my dad and my sister," said Murphy, a Plainwell High School graduate. "I think it's so much fun to get dressed up and go to a dance with your dad or uncle or grandpa or another chaperone.

"There are a lot of traditions that come from it, like going out to eat before the dance or getting dessert afterwards or going with your best friends or getting your first corsage.

"It's just a fun event that can make a girl feel special."

This year's Daughter Dance is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8, at Plainwell Middle School. The event is open to all Plainwell Community Schools' daughters from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for pictures only, with other activities beginning at 6 p.m. The dance ends at 8 p.m.

Cost is $30 per couple (daughter and chaperone) and $10 for each additional daughter. That cost includes a formal digital photo, music from a DJ, a selfie station, refreshments, a raffle and a flower.

Cash and check will be accepted at the door, or you can bypass the line by registering online at plainwellschools.org/page/youth-programs.

According to Murphy, the raffle includes various surprises, including a gift card for Build-A-Bear.

This is also the first year that the formal photos will be digital, allowing attendees quicker access to the photos.

"This year, we wanted to make (the photo process) easier," Murphy said. "So, we'll have a QR code and those attending will be responsible for their own pictures.

"We plan on having more than 400 girls and chaperone attending this year and we have three middle schools and the middle school, so I think it helps out distributing the pictures and making sure the photos get to the right participants."

In addition to preregistering for the dance, Murphy had one more tip for those planning to attend.

"It's a lot of fun and it will be loud and exciting for the girls and chaperones," she said. "You should expect to be on the dance floor, so daughters and chaperones should both bring comfy shoes."

OPS hosts annual Mother-Son Game Night

Otsego Public Schools hosted its Mother-Son Game Night prior to the boys basketball game against Paw Paw on Friday, Jan. 17.

Attendees were able to hang out with members of the Otsego varsity basketball team to play games, take pictures and get autographs before heading into the gym to enjoy the game.

The Otsego boys basketball team made sure the night ended on a high note, as the Bulldogs ended up posting the 59-49 victory

Proceeds from the event will be used to support the Class of 2025 Grad Bash. (Photos provided)

Plainwell Robotics teams compete in various events

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was a busy weekend for the Plainwell Robotics Club, as teams from the high school, middle school and elementary level were all in action at different locations.

High School team Siege traveled the farthest distance for their competition, participating in the Kalahari Classic Signature Event in Sandusky, Ohio.

The team, comprised of Walker Clippinger, Owen Ferris and Isaiah Looney-McPhillips were one of 168 teams from throughout the country at the event.

Siege, which is coached by Matt Clippinger and Jason Ferris, placed 25 in their 86-team division.

Four Plainwell Middle School teams, meanwhile, competed in the 33-team event held at the Grandville Competition Center.

Team Tech Titans (Liam Gault, AJ Billheimer, Logan Warner, and Isaac Wronski) placed second after the qualifying matches and captained the second-place alliance in the final rounds.

The Tech Titans, coached by Brooke Billheimer and Matt Billheimer, advanced to the semifinals before bowing out.

Team Gear Gremlins also saw its day come to an end in the semifinals.

The team, consisting of Alyssa Warren, Mia Williams and Aubrey Bates and coached by Julie Williams and Matt Warren, placed sixth after the qualifying rounds and captained the fifth-place alliance.

The team was presented with the Innovate Award, which recognizes an effective and well-documented design process for a novel aspect of the team's robot design or gameplay strategy.

Team Roll For Initiative (Elliott Johnson, Mason Potts and Mason Ritchie) placed 18th after the qualifying rounds. The team captained the 11th-place alliance and lost in the round of 16. They are coached by Joe Potts.

Team Error 404: Team name Not Found (Ava Anderson, Mason Anderson, Lucas Pauly and Anne Wilkinson) placed 20th after the qualifiers. The squad, coached by Marcus Anderson and TJ Wilkinson, was invited to join the eight-place alliance and lost in the quarterfinals.

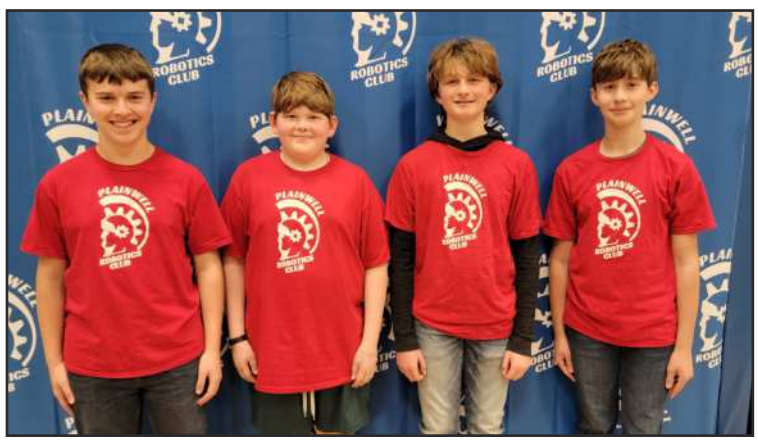
Finally, two Plainwell elementary school teams competed in the 40-team event in Hudsonville.

Team Koala Bots from Cooper Elementary (Pearl Morse, Aiden Cornelius and Addie Bilski) led the way. The team placed 13th after the qualifying rounds and finished in fifth place in the final round.

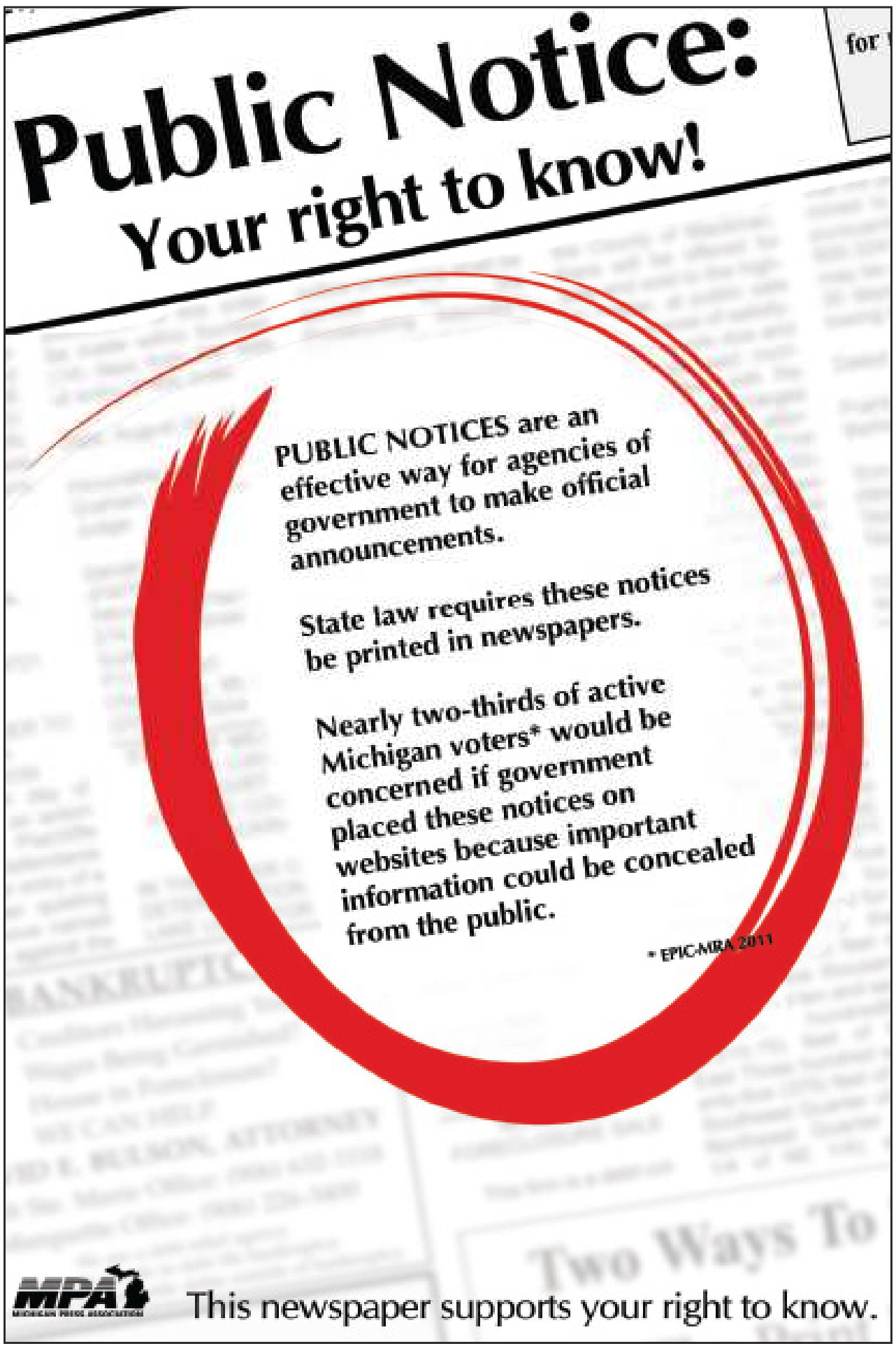
Coached by John Morse, Adam Cornelius and Craig Davies, the Koala Bots were presented with the Build Award, which recognizes a well-constructed robot that is built with a high degree of attention to detail in order to hold up to the rigors of competition.

By virtue of receiving the Build Award, the team earned an invitation to the VEX IQ State Championship to be held in Monroe, Michigan in March.

The Hallow Knights from Gilkey Elementary (Ezekiel Blair, Penelope Carruthers-Makarewich, Madilyn Fisher, and Charles Gerds) placed 31st after the qualifiers. The Hallow Knights are coached by Angalena Carruthers-Makarewich and Jamie Raulston.



Plainwell's Tech Titans (at left) placed second after the qualifying rounds of the middle school robotics competition in Grandville, while Gear Gremlins (right) placed sixth. Both teams lost in the semifinals of the final round. (Photos provided)


Public Notice:
Your right to know!
PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.
State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.
Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.
* EPIC-MRA 2011
MPA
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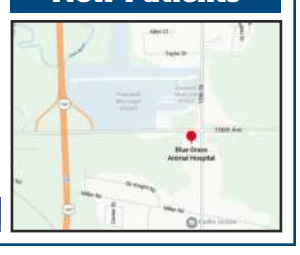

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New Extended Hours
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B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column
Thursday, Jan.30, 2025

Plainwell boys wrestling upends archrival Otsego

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—In recent years, Plainwell and Otsego have begun scheduling their wrestling dual meet during the day so students of the host school can be in the gym to support their school.

That tradition continued this year, as the Bulldogs hosted the Trojans at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23.

And while the Otsego students were vocal in their support for their team, it was Plainwell that emerged with the 65-17 win.

With the victory, the Trojans ended the dual-meet portion of the Wolverine Conference schedule at 6-1, putting them in second place behind Three Rivers (7-0) heading to the Conference Meet. The Bulldogs, who slipped to 2-5, tied for sixth in the standings with Vicksburg.

The Wolverine Conference Meet is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 1.

Plainwell won 11 of the 14 weight classes, with nine of those victories coming via pin and other by way of forfeit.

Earning pins for the Trojans were: Tyler Cooper (Conner Mitchell at 106 pounds); Grady Erlandson (over Brian Johnson at 120); Ben Lynes (over Sawyer Kalkman at 132); Marco Vega (over Dawson Smith at 144); Thomas Almaguer (over Lane Blanchard at 150); Aiden Beck (over Gabe Conley over 157); Rickey Lynch (over David Gray at 165); Carter Ritchie (over Jose Serrano at 215); and Adin Young (over Logan Brinkhuis at 285).

Dylan Nieuwenhuis won by forfeit at 113, with Plainwell's final win came from Austin Gyorkos at 138. Gyorkos posted a 24-8 tech fall over Jialon Herbert.

All three of Otsego's wins came by way of pin. Picking up those wins were Zeke Andrina at 126 (over Anthony Preuss), Vonte Boyce at 175 (over Truman Summerer) and Kole Engleright at 190 (over Shayden Girton).

Otsego students react to some of the action during the wrestling match between the host Bulldogs and Plainwell. (Photo provided)

One of the matches during the clash between Plainwell and Otsego prepares to start. (Photo provided)

Saugatuck trio leads Trailblazers to win over G-A

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GALESBURG—Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger; Luke Skywalker, Princess Lia and Han Solo; Shrek, Donkey and Fiona; Alvin, Simon and Theodore; the Three Musketeers.

That is a list of some pretty terrific trios.

And in its SAC contest against host Galesburg-Augusta on Friday, Jan. 24, the Saugatuck girls basketball team had terrific trio of its own.

Sophomore Mylah Simpson joined forces with juniors Tali Laskowski and Penny Grob to score 45 points.

That point total accounted for 82 percent of the Trailblazers' offensive output and outdid the entire Galesburg-Augusta roster as Saugatuck picked up the 55-40 victory.

The victory was the third straight for the Trailblazers, moving them to 6-0 in divisional action and 8-1 overall.

And although his team appeared to be in control of the action throughout the game, Saugatuck coach Kevin Tringali said securing the win was anything but easy.

"It was a hard-fought victory," he said. "G-A is always such a tough place to play."

One area in which Tringali would like to see improvement from his team is rebounding.

"Although we did not rebound very well tonight, our kids played hard and were resilient," Tringali said. "Games like this will help us down the road."

Tali Laskowski (23) joined with Mylah Simpson and Penny Grob to score 45 points in Saugatuck's win over G-A. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Wayland's VanHouten competes in international softball tourney

Wayland junior Shelby VanHouten is seen playing for US Pride in the Netherlands. (Photo provided)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WAYLAND—In mid-January, Wayland Union High School junior Shelby VanHouten got a taste of softball at the international level.

VanHouten was part of the US Pride team that traveled to Rotterdam in the Netherlands for a tournament that featured teams from across the globe.

The experience was one VanHouten won't soon forget.

"Being able to play among some of the greatest softball players in the world opened my eyes to just how big the love of the game really is," she said. "While experiencing another culture and competing in high-level play, the friendships and the bonds I created with my new teammates are something that will last forever."

US Pride finished the tournament at 4-2, playing against teams from the Netherlands, Great Britain, the Czech Republic and the United States.

Team Roef! from the Netherlands captured first-place honors.

Michelle Brander, the head softball coach at Hope College, served as coach of the US Pride squad. She personally selected the 10 local softball players who would make up the roster.

It was a sort of full-circle moment for Brander, as she participated in the tournament during her playing days.

And while the memories of this year's tournament are still fresh in VanHouten's mind, she's already thinking ahead to next year.

She was offered and accepted the opportunity to return to play for US Pride in the tournament again next January.

"I want to thank God for the ability He has given me to play softball," VanHouten said. "I also want to thank Coach Brander and Coach Dani for this wonderful opportunity; my parents; my teammates; Coach Pete, Coach Dave and Coach Ritz for their endless support.

"I can't wait for The Cup 2026."

Wayland Union Schools congratulated VanHouten on her accomplishment.

"Wayland Union Schools is thrilled to see our students thrive both on and off school grounds," the district said in a release. "We can't wait to watch Shelby participate in the tournament next season."

Otsego swimmers shake off rust to defeat host Marshall

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARSHALL—Due to a pair of weather-related postponements, the Otsego boys swim & dive team had gone nearly two weeks without a meet before traveling to Marshall on Thursday, Jan. 23.

"It was nice to finally have a competition," Otsego coach Darryl Belton said. "I don't know who was more tired of practice, me or the boys."

And despite the long layoff, the Bulldogs showed little signs of rust as they won all 12 events and earned the 97-84 victory to remain unbeaten in Southwest and Central Michigan Swim League action at 3-0.

"We had some very good performances and a bunch of (personal records)," Belton said. "It's a long bus ride to Marshall and the three-hour (snow day) practices took a lot out of us. But overall, I liked how we were able to compete and overcome some tiredness."

Liam Smith led the charge for Otsego, setting a pool record in the 100-yard butterfly with a winning time of 52.31, while teammate Willsun Fuller was second in the event at 56.08.

Smith also won the 200 free at 1:47.63.

"Liam did what he always does—set records," Belton said of his star junior, who has verbally committed to compete at the University of Florida.

Belton also praised the effort of Garrison Busscher in the 100 fly, as Busscher set a new PR of 1:13.97 to finish fourth.

"Garrison's performance in the fly came out of nowhere," Belton said. "I would have been happy with a legal 1:35 and he went 22 seconds faster than that."

In diving, Caleb Wesseldyk posted a season-best score of 221.8 to finish 53.55 points ahead of runner-up Ronnie Gill from Marshall.

This was Wesseldyk's third meet back after missing the start of the season with an injury.

"Caleb looks like he is back and 100 percent healthy," Belton said. "He had a season-best score by almost 40 points."

Liam Raseman and Blake Guerrant joined Smith in winning two individual events.

Raseman took first in the 200 IM (2:24.55) and the 500 free (5:23.07), while Guerrant won the 50 free (24.43) and the 100 free (53.03).

Also winning individual events were Fuller in the 100 backstroke (59.89) and Tyler Campbell in the 100 breaststroke (1:20.93).

The Bulldogs also took top honors in all three relays: the team of Smith, Guerrant, Fuller and Raseman in the 200 medley (1:37.8); the team of Carson Bydash, Busscher, Tyler Campbell and Dillon Campbell in the 200 free; and the team of Guerrant, Fuller, Raseman and Smith in the 400 free (3:38.26).

Tyler Campbell won the 100-yard breaststroke for Otsego in the Bulldog's conference clash with Marshall. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Viking suffer loss to Calvin

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—The Hopkins boys basketball team hosted a red-hot Calvin Christian squad in OK Silver action on Friday, Jan. 24.

The Squires entered the game riding a five-game winning streak after opening the season at 2-5.

And while the Vikings battled throughout the game, they were unable to bring Calvin's winning streak to a stop as Hopkins dropped the 62-48 decision.

The loss was the fourth straight for Hopkins, which fell to 2-10 overall and 0-4 in league play. Calvin improved to 8-5 and remained atop the Silver standings at 5-0.

"Calvin Christian is a good team," Hopkins coach Jake Jewett said. "Right now, they are at the top of the OK Silver Conference. So, we knew we were going to have our hands full."

Despite the challenge they were facing, the Vikings started the game on a high note.

Hopkins took an early lead and were up 16-14 at the conclusion of the opening stanza.

But the Squires made their move in the second quarter, holding a 17-7 scoring advantage to take a 31-23 lead to halftime.

Calvin's lead stood at 49-37 entering the final frame, and the Vikings were unable to narrow the gap.

"We stuck with them early and our guys really battled," Jewett said.

Not that Jewett was surprised by the fight he saw from his players. Because in spite of the Vikings' struggles when it comes to collecting wins, Hopkins has continued to put forth a strong effort.

"All season long, we haven't backed down from anyone or shied away from a challenge," Jewett said. "Ultimately, Calvin Christian's strong outside shooting and length defensively was too much for us."

The sophomore duo of Trent Smith and Merek Zapolnik led Hopkins with 28 combined points. Smith finished with a team-best 16 points, while Zapolnik added 12.

Junior Cruz Hitzler, Hopkins' leading scorer on the season, was face-guarded the throughout the game and had a difficult time finding his rhythm offensively.

"In the locker room after the game, we talked about how we left it all out on the floor and gave them our best shot," Jewett said. "Our team did not lose due to a lack of effort, and that's something we need to continue to build on as the season goes on."

Hopkins' Merek Zapolnik (left) drives around a Calvin Christian defender during the game on Jan. 24. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego boys drop overtime battle with host Vicksburg

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

VICKSBURG—Sure, Otsego boys basketball coach Matt Dennis would have preferred to come away with a win against host Vicksburg on Friday, Jan. 24.

But he was far from disappointed with the players following a 71-65 overtime loss.

"While we fell a little short on the scoreboard, I was pleased with how we played against Vicksburg," Dennis said. "We have a young team and we're learning the game in many ways and the game tonight was a learning experience that we will improve from."

The result of this game was a marked improvement from the first time these teams met this season.

The previous game—the season-opener for both teams back on Nov. 25—saw Vicksburg win by 18 points.

"Our team is competing at a high level and getting better every time we step on the floor," Dennis said.

Matthew Long and Owen Santman led the way for Otsego (4-6 overall and 3-5 in the Wolverine Conference) offensively.

Long finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds for the double-double. Santman added 16 points.

Roman Busscher nearly gave Otsego a third double-digit scorer, as he finished with nine points.

Wyatt Dennis, who was called up from the JV squad a couple of weeks earlier as Otsego dealt with some injuries, racked up a team-best five assists to go with five points.

The game was a back-and-forth affair throughout.

Otsego started the game strong, building a 19-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. Vicksburg responded with a strong second quarter to take a 29-27 halftime lead.

But back came Otsego, using an 18-13 edge in quarter three to go up 45-42. A 14-11 advantage by Vicksburg in the fourth quarter knotted the score at 56-56 to force overtime.

"We'll watch the film and see how we could have made some adjustments and finish the game stronger," Matt Dennis said. "But overall, we're heading in the right direction."

Saugatuck boys fall to Galesburg-Augusta

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GALESBURG—The results might not have been there, but the effort was.

That was Saugatuck boys basketball coach Ty Rock's takeaway from his team's SAC showdown with Galesburg-Augusta on Friday, Jan. 24.

The Trailblazers fell behind 13-7 in the opening quarter and were never able to dig out of that early deficit in suffering the 51-29 loss.

The defeat dropped Saugatuck to 3-10 for the season, while Galesburg-Augusta improved to 7-4.

As has been the case in several games this season, the Trailblazers were getting some good looks at the basket but simply couldn't get enough of those shots to fall.

"It was a tough night shooting the ball for us," said Rock, whose in his first season at the helm in Saugatuck. "Still, I thought the guys played hard and played for four quarters."

Galesburg-Augusta extended its lead to 30-17 at halftime and 43-23 at the end of the third stanza.

Cass Stanberry scored a team-best six points in the loss. That point total in included one of three 3-pointers hit by Saugatuck in the game.

Jordan Hoshor and Carter Miller also hit one triple each.

Hoshor, Miller and Sam Bos each added five points, while Misael Gamboa and Sammy Gamboa rounded out the Trailblazers' scoring with four points each.

Jeremiah Mann had 17 points—including three 3-pointers—to lead Galesburg-Augusta. CJ Benard added 11 points.

"Our guys did not quit, even when we got down," Rock said. "And I'm proud of them for that."

Martin girls come up short against Gobles, Lawton

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GOBLES—Macy Thorne was on fire from long range for the Martin girls basketball team in the fourth quarter of the Clippers' SAC game with host Gobles on Friday, Jan. 24.

Just how hot was Thorne?

Well, she knocked down four 3-pointers to account for 12 of her team-best 15 points.

Unfortunately for the Clippers, Thorne's shooting exhibition wasn't quite enough to overcome what had been a nine-point deficit after three quarters as Gobles prevailed 43-41.

"This was another hard-fought battle where we came up one possession short," said Martin coach Ben Schipper, whose team fell to 4-7. "It's the fourth loss we've had this season by one possession."

One of those other four one-possession losses also came to Gobles, as the Clippers fell 32-29 in early December.

Martin led 10-7 after one quarter and was still very much in the game at halftime, trailing 20-18.

But the Tigers used a 13-6 scoring edge in the third stanza to get some separation.

"The game got away from us a bit in the third quarter with turnovers leading to easy buckets and giving up offensive rebounds," Schipper said. "Those were the two main areas of emphasis for us tonight as we feel really good about our half-court defense.

"Unfortunately, we fell short in those two areas and Gobles was able to capitalize."

The Clippers—with Thorne leading the way—came all the way back to knot the score at 41-41 on a short corner jumper by Marybeth Ritchie with 26 seconds left to play.

Gobles missed its first shot of the ensuing possession, but snagged the offensive rebound and got the putback for the lead.

"We're very proud of the girls for not giving in when Gobles got up by nine," Schipper said. "We put on our press at the start of the fourth and quickly got right back in the game."

Torryn Harris added eight points in the loss, with Anna Jager going for six points.

Two days earlier, the Clippers hosted Lawton and led the Blue Devils—who entered the game at 6-2—by a 25-23 margin through three quarters.

The fourth quarter belonged to Lawton, though, as it outscored the Clippers 17-5 to secure the 41-30 win.

"I was really proud of our effort tonight against a solid Lawton team, especially since we weren't able to practice since our last game on Friday (due to weather cancellations)," Schipper said. "Our execution was solid through the first three quarters."

In the fourth quarter, Lawton hit three 3-pointers and pulled away.

"I thought our half-court defense was tremendous throughout the game," Schipper said. "We held them to three points through the first quarter-and-a-half. A couple of Lawton's shooters got hot towards the end of the third and in the fourth and that was the difference in the game."

Martin led 8-2 after one quarter and 13-10 at halftime.

Ritchie led a balanced scoring attack with six points. Harris, Thorne, Anna Jager and Avery Jager added five points each.

"Marybeth and Avery Jager were great rim protectors with many highlight reel blocks and altering shots," Schipper said.

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Martin honors 2019-20 girls basketball team

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—A global pandemic robbed the 2019-20 Martin girls basketball team of the opportunity of completing what had been one of the most successful seasons in program history.

And while he couldn't give them that season back, Clippers coach Ben Schipper at least wanted to give the nine players from that squad the recognition they deserved.

So between the girls and boys basketball games against Black River on Friday, Jan. 17, Martin hosted a five-year reunion for the 2019-20 team that featured a three-minute highlight video and words from Schipper about the team's accomplishments.

"It was incredibly meaningful to be with those women again," Schipper said. "To have all nine of them take time out of their busy schedules to be there was such a blessing. I think that showed how important it was to them."

That season, Martin went 22-1, outscoring their opponents by an average score of 49-29 while winning conference and district championships along the way.

But as the team was preparing to host a regional championship game, the sports season came to a screeching halt with the onset of COVID.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association initially suspended the postseason tournament with the hopes of restarting. But the remainder of the season was ultimately canceled, leaving the Martin players to wonder what might have been.

"This team had no closure when their season ended," Schipper said. "Every year, you either win the championship or you go out with a loss because someone bested you. Even though losing is hard, you accept the fact that someone was better than you that night.

"For this team in that crazy year, we didn't have it either way. We felt like we were playing our best basketball heading into hosting the regional final and we didn't have the chance to play until someone proved they could knock us out."

Schipper believed then and continues to believe now that the team had the opportunity to make it to the Breslin Center as part of the Final Four in Division 4.

"To have that opportunity taken away from them for no fault of their own was gut-wrenching," Schipper said. "So, as we hit the five-year anniversary of that season, some of those feelings came back to me and I remembered we never got to do our traditional end-of-the-year banquet that year.

"I knew the lack of closure really affected them, so I felt that honoring them in front of the home crowd could help to bring at least a little long-needed peace to the situation."

Members of the 2019-20 Martin girls basketball team had a five-year reunion to celebrate their season that was cut short by the COVID pandemic. (Photo provided)

Schipper also took the opportunity to honor one of the players from that team for her individual accomplishment.

Faith Guritz, one of six seniors on the roster, reached 1,000 points for her career during the season and finished with more than 1,100 points.

"I'm so glad we got to do something special for her," Schipper said. "She was such a special player and deserved every accolade that came her way.

"During the game when she reached 1,000 points versus Delton, I made sure to call a timeout and had the milestone announced. But that's really all we did at the time. Our team goals were truly the focus and we kind of acknowledged it and kept plugging along.

"With the craziness and uncertainty surrounding the end of the season, it honestly didn't even occur to me to do something more for Faith at that point. I really regretted not making a bigger deal out of it for her, so being able to make it right was important to me during this event."

After the on-court ceremony, the players along with their family and friends had a cake reception and continued catching up.

It was a special scene for Schipper.

"Seeing them smile and hearing their 'oohs' and 'aahs' watching the highlight reel was very heart-warming," he said. "I couldn't stop smiling during that video. You could tell the event brought back so many great memories for them. That's what high school sports are about, creating memories with your friends, and to see that be true for these women was a great reminder."

It was the first time all nine players had been together since they graduated.

"I could tell they were having a great time catching up with one another," Schipper said. "I heard a few girls mention how much they missed playing together. My favorite comment came after I sent the link of the highlight reel to the group chat and one of them said, 'I can't stop watching.'"

Schipper was also quick to thank Martin athletic director Tanner Curry for his help in planning the reunion.

"Tanner was 100 percent on board from the second I brought this idea to him and supported my excitement in every way about this," Schipper said.

Otsego girls fall to Vicksburg after beating Buchanan

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—For more than three quarters, the Otsego girls basketball squad went toe to toe with one of the top-ranked teams in Division 2.

With about six minutes remaining in the final quarter, Otsego trailed ninth-ranked Vicksburg by a razor-thin 27-26 margin.

"It was a tough, physical game and scoring was at a premium," Otsego coach Tony Koshar said.

And while Vicksburg ended up scoring the game's final 12 points to pull away for the 39-26 victory, Koshar couldn't have been prouder of his players for the effort they put forth.

"I think the girls learned that we can play with the best," Koshar said. "I wasn't sure how they were going to respond given our youth, but in terms of effort and want to, we were really good.

"We had some execution issues that we will resolve for the future, but it was a great learning experience for us and one I expect us to be better for along the way."

The game was am important one for the Wolverine Conference standings, as Vicksburg (12-0 overall) entered the game in first place at 7-0 in the league. Otsego (6-5) was in second place at 5-1.

Otsego came out strong in the first quarter, taking a 10-7 lead. Vicksburg came back to take an 18-17 lead at halftime before going up 27-22 after three quarters.

Otsego scored the first four points of the final frame to make it a one-point game, but Vicksburg was able to put together its game-ending run.

"We need to better offensively as again I think our defense was good enough to win the game," Koshar said.

Brooke Smalldon had seven points to pace Otsego. She also had six rebounds and two steals.

Mya Engbers had four points, followed by Audrey Lingbeek and Tessa Prough with four each. Madden Fitzpatrick secured a team-best eight rebounds.

Two days earlier, Otsego hosted Buchanan for a non-league contest that wasn't really much of a contest at all.

The Bulldogs limited Buchanan to seven or fewer points in each quarter while scoring at least 12 points in each frame to cruise to the 56-18 win.

Otsego led 12-5 after one quarter and 24-7 at the intermission.

"It was a good night for us as we started strong and were able to build a good lead at halftime," Koshar said. "It was more of the same in the second half, as we continued to play stellar defense which turned into good offense."

It was a balanced effort for Otsego, with eight Bulldogs scoring at least four points.

Prough, Engbers and Allie Proctor tied for team-high honors with nine points. Engbers also had a team-topping eight rebounds. Malania Miller was next with eight points in nine minutes.

"Malania, who has been splitting time between varsity and JV, gave us some great minutes in the first half when we had a little foul trouble and then played well late," Koshar said.

Smalldon and Lingbeek added six points each, with Lingbeek also doling out four assists.

Allegan girls drop road game at Bridgman

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BRIDGMAN—The first quarter couldn't have gone much better for the Allegan girls basketball team in its road contest against Bridgman on Friday, Jan. 24.

Led by five points—including a 3-pointer—from Shy Thompson, the Tigers outscored the host Bees 8-3 in the opening period.

The second quarter was a bit of a different story.

Bridgman outscored Allegan 21-5 in the second frame and never looked back in handing the Tigers the 48-27 loss.

Allegan's record fell to 4-3.

According to Allegan coach Sharron Thompson, his team simply couldn't keep up with the lights-out shooting of Bridgman.

"The Bees enjoyed a hot shooting night, while we struggled to find our consistency shooting the ball," he said.

Lanie McGrory was the offensive star for Bridgman, scoring 13 points during her team's second-quarter surge.

McGrory, who scored two points in the opening frame, added three points in the third quarter and six in the final frame for a game-topping 24 points.

Taytanna Hill and Emily Howell added 14 and 10 points, respectively, for Bridgman to give the Bees a trio of double-digit scorers.

Allegan, meanwhile, received a team-best seven points from Shy Thompson. Bailey Meade and Ellie Ziemelis chipped in with five points each.

Allegan's Jayden VandenAkker (right) battles for the ball in a recent game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Hamilton wrestlers take first place in Montague

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MONTAGUE—If you're going to travel nearly an hour and a half for a tournament, you might as well win it.

That's exactly what the Hamilton boys wrestling team did on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Taking part in the Randy Jacobs Memorial dual team tournament, the Hawkeyes went 5-0, culminating with a 53-24 win over West Ottawa in the finals.

Hamilton also bested Orchard View (71-9), Otsego (58-18), North Muskegon (70-4) and Montague (73-6).

"This was a great tournament for some of our less experienced wrestlers, as they found some success and boosted their confidence before going into the postseason," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said.

A personal highlight came from Bryce Morrison, who posted the 100th win of his career.

Morrison, who competed at 150 pounds, was one of seven Hawkeyes to go unbeaten on the day. The others were: Brody VanWieren at 113; Chase Morrison at 120; Malachi Kapenga at 138; Jake Chase at 165; Tyler Black at 165; and Shane Dams at 215.

The Hamilton girls wrestling team competed at Ovid Elsie on Friday, Jan. 24, with Korra Kapenga taking third place with a 3-1 record.

First Congregational Church calls Pastor Todd Wagner

By Mark Lovett & Gari Voss

The members of the First Congregational Church of Allegan are excited to announce the calling of Todd Wagner as their new pastor. Wagner is not a stranger to the Allegan community. His road to becoming pastor has taken an unusual path that has always focused on serving the community in which he lived.

In a recent interview, Pastor Wagner stated, "During my career and lifetime, I've experienced pretty much everything you can imagine while serving my communities as a Firefighter, EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer. I've been blessed to experience the good things that bring joy to a community and, at the same time, the unfortunate exposure to all the dark and evil things this world has to offer."

Todd comes from a career in public service. After graduating from South Haven L.C. Mohr High School in 1989, he joined the South Haven Fire Department as a firefighter. Later, he trained and was licensed as an EMT and CPR instructor. In 1990, he enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College to study law enforcement.

Upon graduation, he worked part-time for smaller police departments until securing full-time employment in 1993 with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office as a deputy. Wagner started as a road patrol deputy until being assigned to the Youth Services Bureau.

Upon returning to the road patrol, Wagner took on several specialty assignments within the Sheriff's office. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and supervised daily road patrol operations. He also supervised several specialty teams, including the Marine Division and the Dive/Rescue & Recovery Team. After retiring in 2021, Wagner returned to the Sheriff's Office in April of 2021 to work parttime supervising the Marine Division and teaching boater safety.

Recently Wagner stated, "I had my 'own plans' for life in retirement. My goal was to do a lot of fishing and to complete everything on my 'honey do' list. I also wanted to be around for my kids after missing out on many life activities due to work. I still planned to serve others but at a much more relaxed and steadier pace. Ministry was never on my horizon. However, God has a way of speaking to your heart if you're willing to listen to Him and have an open mind.

"Proverbs 19:21 says, 'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails,'" Wagner mused, "I figured if Jesus could use 12 flawed men in the beginning to build His Church, He could use me to serve it, and He definitely knows better than any of us."

It wasn't long until God revealed how He would direct Wagner's path and provid the right people and circumstances in his life. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Pastor of the First Congregation Church as I continue to serve people both in my community as well as in God's Church."

Wagner and his family came to First Congregational in late 2009 and became members of the church in 2015. As a member of the church, Todd served on the Board of Trustees for eight years and four years as a Deacon during which time, he served three years as the chairman of the Board of Deacons.

After 27½ years of service with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, Todd retired from his full-time law enforcement career in January of 2021 during the height of the COVID pandemic. Though retired, Wagner felt a higher calling and enrolled in Moody Theological Institute and Bible College in the spring of 2021 to pursue his theological degree in ministry. In the spring of 2024, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Integrated Ministry Studies.

Pastor Wagner is married to his wife Holly of 25 years. She works for Bronson Methodist Hospital, where she manages three outpatient pharmacies located in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Paw Paw. Todd and Holly have three children: Maddison, Carter, and Carson.

The First Congregational members invite all to come and meet Pastor Wagner on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Or you may even find him spending time on Thursdays assisting with the Congregational Meals.

Free radon kits available for residents

January is Radon Action Month, and the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) recommends that residents learn more about radon, test for radon levels within their homes, and reduce radon levels within their homes if found at an elevated level. Radon is an odorless, tasteless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Radon can build up in the air in any home or building.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about radon and test their homes. More information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Radon page and MDHHS's Indoor Radon Program page.

Testing: ACHD has free radon test kits available year-round for pick up Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Select local libraries in Allegan County will also be offering free radon test kits while supplies last:

Dorr Township Library – (1804 Sunset Dr, Dorr, MI 49323)

Fennville District Library – (400 W Main St, Fennville, MI 49408)

Henika District Library – (149 S Main St, Wayland, MI 49348)

Hopkins District Library – (118 E Main St, Hopkins, MI 49328)

Leighton Township Library – (4451 12th St, Wayland, MI 49348)

Salem Township Library – (3007 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314)

Saugatuck-Douglas Library – (174 Center St, Douglas, MI 49406)

Ransom District Library – (180 S Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080)

Allegan District Library (331 Hubbard St, Allegan MI 49010)

Residents can find more information on reducing radon in their homes in the Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction: How to Fix Your Home. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/radon & CDC radon information.

Leighton Township

January 9, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Synopsis

1. Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance - 7:02 p.m.
2. Present: Wolbrink, Fennema, Bonnema, Hooker, Bultsma
3. Approved minutes of 12/12/24 & meeting agenda
4. Report from Fire Dept, Bldg Inspector, Planning Commission, Library
5. Heard Public Comment
6. Set budget workshop meeting dates
7. Approved Resolution 2025-01-09 for poverty exemption
8. Approved application of gravel for 139th Ave.
9. Approved listed bills in the amount of $606,694.19
10. Heard Public Comment
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

DORR TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF DORR TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of Dorr Township will conduct a public hearing concerning the following matters to be held on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Dorr Township Hall, located at 4196 18th Street, Dorr, MI.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered include, in brief, the following:

1. An application from Rick Hapner of Vision Real Estate, applicant representing JVR Properties, owner, of the property addressed 1252 142nd Avenue, also known as Permanent Parcel Number 03-05-024-002-00, for special use permit to establish a private road within the E Commercial and I Industrial Districts, subject to Section 4.16 of the Dorr Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. Such other and further business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.

A copy of applications and related materials is available for review at Dorr Township Hall during regular business hours. Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing application(s) by the Dorr Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Planning Commission at the hearing. All interested persons are invited and urged to participate.

Dorr Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Dorr Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Dorr Township Clerk at the address above or by calling 616-681-9874.

DANIEL BEUTE, CHAIRMAN
DORR TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
616-681-9874

NOTICE

At the January 6, 2025 City Commission meeting, Commissioners voted to:

Adopt Ordinance 2024-06, Ordinance to Regulate Food Trucks in the City of Fennville

Hire Krohn Excavating to complete the street projects on First, Second, and Park Streets

Adopt the City Sustainability Plan

Correct the minutes from September 5, 2023, May 6, 2024, and November 4, 2024 Meetings to reflect the correct outcomes of the votes

At the January 20, 2025 City Commission meeting, Commissioners voted to:

Authorize Clerk to sign the Fennville Public Schools and Allegan Area Educational Service Agency coordinating contracts

Approve the Economic Development Strategy

Approve the Community Marketing Development Strategy

Adopt Resolution 2025-01, PILOT Policy

Adopt Resolution 2025-02, Brownfield Policy

Adopt the 2025 Training Strategy

Appoint Jody Martin to the Fennville District Library Board

Reappoint Pamela Jenewein to the Fennville City Commission

Public Hearing Notice

Charter Township of Gun Plain Will be having a Special Meeting on Tuesday February 18, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at 381 8th Street Plainwell MI 49080 to discuss the following: 2025/2026 Township Budget

The Gun Plain Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 at 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended, MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

The Gun Plain Charter Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Gun Plain Charter Township Board.

Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Gun Plain Charter Township Board by writing or calling the following: Marty Meert, 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI. 49080. (269) 685-9471.

Gun Plain Charter Township Board
P.O. Box 146
Plainwell, MI 49080

City of Fennville Ordinance 2024-05

Ordinance to Regulate Noise from Motor Vehicles

At a regular meeting of the City Commission for the City of FennviHe, Michigan, held at City Hall in Fennville, Michigan, on the 18th day of November, 2024.

Present: Boeve, Langston, Sliter, Lopez

Absent: Jammis, Machen

The following Ordinance was offered by Commissioner Langston, and supported by

Commissioner Sliter

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to enforce the noise ordinance from motor vehicles along M89; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation requires a separate noise ordinance.

THEREFORE, the City of Fennville ordains:

Noise limitations; prohibitions; violation as civil infraction.

Sec.1.

(1) A motor vehicle must not be operated or driven on a highway or street if the motor vehicle produces total noise exceeding 1 of the following limits at a distance of 50 feet except as provided in subdivisions (b)(iii) and (c)(iii):

(a) A motor vehicle with a gross weight or gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or more, combination vehicle with gross weight or gross vehicle weight ratings of 8,500 pounds or more.

(i) Ninety DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is greater than 35 miles per hour.

(ii) Eighty-six DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is not more than 35 miles per hour.

(iii) Eighty-eight DBA under stationary run-up test.

(b) A motorcycle or a moped:

(i) Eighty-six DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is greater than 35 mites per hour.

(ii) Eighty-two DBA if the maximum Lawful speed on the highway or street is not more than 35 miles per hour.

(iii) Ninety-five DBA under stationary run-up test at 75 inches.

(c) A motor vehicle or a combination of vehicles towed by a motor vehicle not covered in subdivision (a) or (b):

(i) Eighty-two DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is greater than 35 miles per hour.

(ii) Seventy-six DBA if the maximum Lawful speed on the highway or street is not more than 35 miles per hour.

(iii) Ninety-five DBA under stationary run-up test 20 inches from the end of the tailpipe.

(2) A dealer shall not sell or offer for sale for use upon a street or highway in this state a new motor vehicle that produces a maximum noise exceeding the following Limits:

(a) A motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or more—83 DBA.

(b) A motorcycle or a moped—83 DBA.

(c) A motor vehicle not covered in subdivision (a) or (b)—80 DBA.

(3) A person shall not operate a vehicle on a highway or street if the vehicle has a defect in the exhaust system that affects sound reduction, is not equipped with a muffler or other noise dissipative device, or is equipped with a cutout, bypass, amplifier, or a similar device.

(4) A person, eitheractingfor himself or herself or as the agent or employee of another, shall not sell, install, or replace a muffler or exhaust part that causes the motor vehicle to which the muffler or exhaust part is attached to exceed the noise Limits established by this act or a rule promulgated under this act.

(5) A person shall not modify, repair, replace, or remove a partof an exhaust system causing the motor vehicle to which the system is attached to produce noise in excess of the Levels established by this act, or operate a motor vehicle so altered on a street or highway.

(6) A dealer shall not sell a used orsecondhand motor vehicle for use upon a street or highway that is not in compliance with this act.

(7) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction and shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than $100.00.

CERTIFICATE

!, the undersigned, the duly qualified Clerk of the City of FennviLle, Allegan County, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken at a regular meeting of the Commission of the City of Fennville, held on the 18th day of November, 2024. The original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act 267, Public Acts of 1876, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEROF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 18th day of November, 2024.

Atyssa Ramirez
City CLerk

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

The Spanish call it a siesta; the Scots call it a hurkel-durkel; Mother called it 'checking the inside of her eyeballs. The rest of us call it an afternoon nap. Do you take one?

-Older man near the Fennville hardware store: "Every afternoon, right after lunch. It's our big meal of the day and I get tired. So, now that I'm retired, why not?"

-Another man, about the same age, same location: "Yup. A couple of times a week."

-Couple near the Fennville grocery store: Man, "She does, I don't." Woman, "Yes you do. Everything I start telling you something about my book club or bridge club, your eyes get heavy and you fall asleep."

-Middle aged man near the Blue Goose: "Sort of. My boss says I'm lazy and don't want to work. I tell him I'm not afraid of work; I can fall asleep right next to it."

-Man near the Allegan Public Library, "I'm heading in right now to read the paper and I'll probably drift off. Say, you write for the paper, don't you? I ought to shake your hand because you put me to sleep better than anyone." Laughs and walks inside.

-Woman, same location: "Afternoon nap? What's that? I don't have time for that sort of nonsense. Besides, the Bible preaches against idleness!"

-Woman near the Huntington Bank: "Hurkel Durkel? That's what the Scottish people call it? Sure sounds better than taking a nap. I got to remember that, and the next time my boyfriend wants to know what I did, I'm going to tell him I took a hurkel durkel. Thanks!"

Woman near the Allegan County News: "My man does in the evening after supper. He sits down to watch the news or something on television, and he's out like a light. I guess I do, too, when he wants to watch one of his police shows. They bore me."

-Man near the optometry office: "Say, what I want to know is how fast you can put 'em to sleep when your preaching? Just kidding. Just kidding."

-Woman near Minnie's: "My husband does after a big meal. He goes into the living room, loosens his belt, an starts sawing lumber. I don't mind. He works outside most days, so right now he's cold and tired when he gets home."

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Public Notices

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by David Christopher Cooper, individual, to PNC Bank, National Association, Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2022 and recorded September 29, 2022 in Liber 4802, Page 617 Allegan County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy and 55/100 Dollars ($64,870.55).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 6, 2025.

Said premises are located in the City of Fennville, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

LOT 15 OF ATWATER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FENNVILLE, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 14.

229 Wilson Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 9, 2025
File No. 24-016425
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-09)(01-30)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM a.m./ p.m. on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Timothy Scott Durand and Brenda S. Durand of Allegan County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 28th day of June, 2004, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Allegan and State of Michigan, on the 20th day of July, 2004, Liber 2707, Page 258, of the Allegan County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $40,190.31 plus accrued interest at 9.00000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Lee, in the County of Allegan and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan North 208.7 feet of West 208.7 feet of North 1/2 Northeast 1/4 Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 15 West. Commonly known as: 563 53rd Street, Pullman, MI 49450 Tax ID: 12-022-001-00 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: January 16, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 24-001282-1
(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, Michigan, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage ("Mortgage") and Note ("Note") made by David W. Angeles, an unmarried man, and Shirley R. Haynes, an unmarried woman, whose address is 118 South Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 ("Mortgagor"), in favor of AAC Credit Union, which address is 904 Broadway N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 ("Mortgagee"). The Mortgage is dated September 30, 2019, and recorded on October 4, 2019 in the Allegan County Register of Deeds, in Liber 4388, Page 157. As of January 16, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Mortgage is the sum of One Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine and 66/100 Dollars ($128,969.66), including interest at the rate per annum set forth in the Note, and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and Note and which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Mortgage, and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that the Mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgaged premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Allegan County Courthouse, which address is 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Allegan County, State of Michigan, on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The property subject to the Mortgage is situated in the City of Fennville, County of Allegan, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: The North ½ of Lots 13 and 14 in Hutchin's Addition, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 8, Allegan County Records. Parcel Address: 118 South Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 Parcel Tax ID: 03-52-400-013-50 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period can be shortened in accordance with Michigan law. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagor and any other person liable on the Mortgage will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 16, 2025 MORTGAGEE: AAC CREDIT UNION 904 BROADWAY N.W. GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49504 Attorneys for Mortgagee: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. By: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 49002
(01-16)(02-06)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Timothy James Ketchum to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns , Mortgagee, dated April 7, 2023, and recorded on April 12, 2023, in Liber 4848, Page 506, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to loanDepot.com, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 28, 2024 and recorded February 29, 2024 in Liber 4923, Page 209, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Four and 24/100 ($173,954.24) including interest at the rate of 6.62500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 29, Town 3 North, Range 12 West, Hopkins Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as beginning at a point on the West line of Section 29, being South 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds East 1312.39 feet from the West 1/4 corner of Section 29; Thence continuing South 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds East 219 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes 48 seconds East 198.93 feet; Thence North 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds West 219 feet to the North line of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 29; Thence on said North line Section 89 degrees 50 minutes 48 seconds West 198.93 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 2657 22ND ST, HOPKINS, MI 49328 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 16, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for loanDepot.com, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00406-1
(01-16)(02-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO.24-69940-DC
Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
HOLLY M. HEFFNER
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
MICHAEL J. BECKER P81132
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, MCKOWN & KIEL, PC
314 Trowbridge Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-2136
v
Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
SETH A. STRONG
THE COURTFINDS:
1. Service of process upon the defendant, SETH A STRONG cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR2.105 and service of process may be made ina manner thatis reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
ITIS ORDERED:
[x] 2. Service of the [x] summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
b. Tacking or firmly affixing TO HIS WINDSHIELD ON HIS CAR
d. Other: publish in the county of his last known address per MCR 2.106(E)
For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.
January 14, 2025
Judge Matthew Antkoviak P-59449

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Summons
CASE NO.24-69940-DC
Judge Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone number
Holly M. Heffner
236 Robinson St.
Allegan, MI 49010
Plaintiff's attorney bar number, address, and telephone number
Michael I. Becker; Orton Tooman PC
314 Trowbridge St.
Allegan, Mi 49010
268-673-2136
v
Defendant's name, address, and telephone number
Seth A. Strong
236 Robinson St.
Allegan, Mi 49010
Domestic Relations Case
There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
SUMMONS
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:
1. You are being sued.
2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the court and serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action with the court (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside of Michigan).
3. if you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
4. if you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter fo help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
issue date:12-30-2024
Expiration date: 3-30-2025
1-23 2-6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Mortgage dated April 19, 2024, signed on April 26, 2024, and recorded on October 2, 2024, in Liber 4978 Page 342, Allegan County, Michigan,Register of Deeds, (the "Mortgage") Under the power of sale contained in of the Mortgage please take notice as follows: Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Allegan County Courthouse in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name of the Mortgagor: Dominic Russo Original Mortgagee: Phil Mol Date of Mortgage: April 19, 2024 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 2, 2024 Amount Claimed Due on Date of Notice: $106,176.71 Said premises are located in the Township of Dorr, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and more particularly described as: Lot(s) 11 Newman's Addition to Village of Dorr, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page(s) 18, Allegal County Records. Owner(s) of Record: Dominic Russo Property Address: 1836 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49504 Parcel ID No. 05-280-011-00 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8) unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, then, in that event, the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later, pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8), after which Dominic Russo and all persons claiming through or under them shall be forever barred from all equity of redemption. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, the owners, Dominic Russo, will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Phillip Mol for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 14, 2025 By: Phillip Mol, Mortgagee For any inquiries, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage set forth below: Melissa Francis, Esq. Hirzel Law, PLC 37085 Grand River Avenue, Suite 200 Farmington, Michigan 48335 Phone: (248) 478-1800 Hirzel Law, PLC File No. 18163
(01-23)(02-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Clyde Pruitt, a married man and Susan Pruitt, his wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/ or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank & Trust Company, N.A.
Date of Mortgage: August 30, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 11, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $184,393.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 6 of Ardmore Acres, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on
page 61, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 676 10th St, Plainwell, MI 49080-1005
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1550854
(01-23)(02-13)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY
BRADLEY BASTOW (formerly of 6990 114th Ave. in South Haven):
The state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, herewith provides notice that it intends to dispose of certain personal property that was seized on May 12, 2017, in the course of investigating a complaint filed with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complaint No. 51-XX-146276). If you believe you have a claim to said property, please reply in writing to:
Lorne Carignan
Bureau of Professional Licensing
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, Michigan 48909
1-23 3-27

FORECLOSURE NOTICE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTN HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. MORTGAGE SALE—Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Williams, a single man, of 2909 Lavita Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234 ("Mortgagor") to BankUnited, N.A., a national banking association, of 7815 NW 148 Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016 ("Mortgagee") dated September 25, 2020 and recorded with the Allegan County Register of Deeds, State of Michigan, on September 30, 2020 in Liber 4517, Page 629, Document #2020019993 (the "Mortgage"). The sum claimed to be due and owing on said Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 10/100 Dollars ($1,325,770.10) including principal and interest. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9 a.m., local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed at a sale at public auction to the highest bidder at that place where Circuit Court is held in Allegan County of the premises and land described in the Mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on the Mortgage, together with interest, advances, legal costs, and charges and expenses, including the attorney fee, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned necessary to protect its interest. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Commencing 66 feet South 75 degrees 40 minutes East from Southeast corner of Fair and Charles Street, thence South 75 degres 40 minutes 66 feet, thence South 14 degrees 20 minutes West 165 feet, thence North 75 degrees 40 minutes West 66 feet, thence North 14 degrees 20 minutes East 165 feet to beginning, Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West. Parcel Identification Number: 54-023-057-00 Commonly known as 218 Charles St, Otsego, MI 49078 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Dated: January 14, 2025 BankUnited, N.A., a National Banking Association Ingrid A. Jensen (616) 608-1107 Attorney for Mortgagee Clark Hill PLC 200 Ottawa NW, Suite 500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(01-23)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian to American Advisors Group dated January 19, 2022 and recorded January 31, 2022 in Liber 4725 at Page 1, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/ or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $299,469.42. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: Lot(s) No. 86, 87, 88, and 89 of Felker's Lake Shore Subdivision, according to the recorded plat thereof. Being the same property conveyed to Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Wood Sarkisian, husband and wife from Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian by Warranty Deed dated March 22, 2021 and recorded March 23, 2021 among the Land Records of Allegan County, State of Michigan in Book 4594, Page 247 Instrument No. 2021006924. Tax Account #: 03-59-210-032-00; ALT APN: 59-210-032-00 Said property is commonly known as 3077 May Ave, Douglas, MI 49406. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If

(Continued on Page B7)

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc. for Sale

For sale black oil sunflower seeds 50# bags $18 and shelled corn 50# bags $8. Phone 269-491-5769

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8	9	3	4	5	6	1	2	7
7	1	5	8	9	2	4	3	6
2	4	6	3	7	1	8	9	5
5	2	4	7	6	8	9	1	3
1	3	7	9	2	5	6	4	8
6	8	9	1	3	4	5	7	2
4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8	9
3	7	8	5	4	9	2	6	1
9	6	1	2	8	3	7	5	4

Misc.

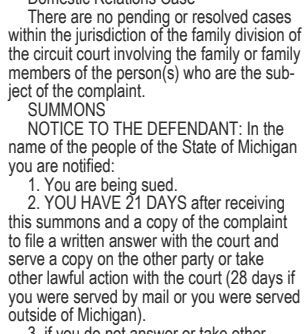
Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/ month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

Misc.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Misc.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-861-4501



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Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
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Babylon Road, Allegan

Public Notices

Continued from, Page B6

this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 27, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 24-36501
(01-30)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Daniel Martinez And Nyokia Martinez also known as Nyoka Martinez, Husband and Wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, its successors and assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2021-RP5
Date of Mortgage: June 24, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 5, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $38,209.38
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Starting at the Northeast corner of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, Section 4, Town 2, North, Range 15 West, as a Point of Beginning; thence South 135 feet; thence West 325 feet; thence North 135 feet; thence East 325 feet to the Point of Beginning, being in Section 4, Town 2 North, Range 15 West.
Common street address (if any): 2334 54th St, Fennville, MI 49408-9587
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551601
(01-30)(02-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65444-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Linda Eileen Herring, Deceased Date of Birth:*05-28-1944
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Linda Eileen Herring, died 12-06-2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia L. Qualls, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1-24-2025
Christopher T. Antkoviak P59448
416 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-8468
Patricia L. Qualls
2742 128th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-793-7046

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-45410 -DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Judy Gienna Baad Date of Birth:*10/24/1947
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Judy Gienna Baad , died 10/29/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ralph T. Baad, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/21/2025
Stephen L. Elkins P34660
2900 East Beltline, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-364-2900
Ralph T. Baad
5995 Imperial Point Drive
Fennville, MI 49408
269-512-4458

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65445-DE
Estate of Kevin Gene Krotz a/k/a Kevin Krotz, Deceased
Date of Birth: 4/20/1930
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Kevin Gene Krotz a/k/a Kevin Krotz died on 12/21/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Martin K. Krotz, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 112 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 01/23/2025
David F. Kiel (P43048)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Martin K. Krotz, Personal Representative
768 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
(616)477-2260

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-65382-DE and JUDGE HON. MICHAEL L. BUCK
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of JAMES ROBERT HIGGS Date of Birth:*10.9.44
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JAMES ROBERT HIGGS, died 5.5.2024 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to SUZANNE MARIE HIGGS, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1·14.25
SUZANNE MARIE HIGGS
213 GILKEY ST, PLAINWELL, MI
269-330-0115

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of Gregory Donald Chappie, Deceased
Date of Birth: April 7, 1954
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, GREGORY DONALD CHAPPIE, who lived at 531 6th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080, died on December 21, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gregory Scott Chappie, Personal Representative of the Estate of Gregory Donald Chappie, Allegan County Probate Court FILE #: 25-65439-DE, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Personal Representative:
Gregory Scott Chappie
Address:531 6th Street
Plainwell, MI 40980
Attorney: Oliver S. Howell (P81470)
Address: Howell Parfet Schau
350 East Michigan Ave., Ste. 500
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
www.kzoolawfirm.com
Telephone:(269) 382-5300
Court Address:Allegan County Probate Court
113 Chestnut St.
Allegan, MI 49010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Trust After Death
No Formal Probate
Trust Administration Unsupervised
In the Matter of Carol Ann Kelch, Deceased
and the Carol A. Kelch Living Trust dated October 29, 2021
Date of Birth: June 12, 1947
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent Carol A. Kelch, who lived at 5898 - 142nd Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49423 died on December 3, 2024. She is the settlor or grantor of a trust, the Carol A. Kelch Living Trust dated October 29, 2021.
Creditors of the decedent or the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or the trust will be forever barred unless presented to David J. Maynard at 9060 West Wind Drive, Zeeland, Michigan 49464, as trustee, or to the trust's attorney, James A. Donkersloot at 132 E. Main Avenue, P.O. Box 230, Zeeland, Michigan 49464, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 30, 2025
Donkersloot Law Office
James A. Donkersloot, P-30433
132 E. Main Avenue, P.O. Box 230
Zeeland, MI 49464
(616) 772-9000
David J. Maynard, Trustee
9060 West Wind Drive
Zeeland, MI 49464
(616) 566-5115

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65442-DE
Estate of Terry Lee Tarantino a/k/a Terry L. Tarantino, Deceased
Date of Birth: August 12, 1948
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Terry Lee Tarantino, died on December 18, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lindsey DeGood, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010, and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: January 22, 2025
Michael J. Becker (P81132)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Lindsey DeGood, Personal Representative
815 W. Judd St.,
Greenville, MI 48838
(269) 680-5183

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Allegan
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65417-DE
Estate of Daniel John Burchardt, Deceased
Date of Birth: 12/23/1971
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Daniel John Burchardt, died on 12/7/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Colton Burchardt, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 112 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 01/21/2025
Michael J. Becker (P81132)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Colton Burchardt, Personal Representative
1807 133rd Avenue
Hopkins, MI49328
(616)437-4693

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 06, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Georgia McNees, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Centex Home Equity Company, LLC Date of mortgage: April 28, 2006 Recorded on May 12, 2006, Liber 29856, on Page 270, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series MO 2006-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series MO 2006-HE6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Twenty-Six and 26/100 Dollars ($115,026.26) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: LOT 24 OF BELDEN SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 18. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO THE USE OF SHORE DRIVE AND HILL DRIVE. Commonly known as 692 East Lake 16 Road, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series MO 2006-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series MO 2006-HE6 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1551806
(01-30)(02-20)

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Jan. 30, 1950

Resident still active, self-supporting at age 90: Mrs. Anna Engles recently held one open house to celebrate her 90th birthday at her home on Fair Street in Otsego and another when her relatives honored her with a family dinner at the home of her niece, Mrs. Ida Davis.

Mrs. Engles came to the city at the age of eight from the state of Vermont. Although she has not lived here the entire time—she has lived in Allegan, Kalamazoo, Wayland and Grand Rapids—the greater part of her life has been spent in Otsego.

She is sure "hard work never hurts anyone" as she has always had a full schedule. When her three daughters were small, she had to make a living for them, which she did by doing housework, washing for others and running a boarding house. She is still active and self-supporting by keeping house for herself and justice Frank Langdon.

Many changes have come to the city since she took up residence. At one time, she lived on the north side of town and saw the first railroad and trains.

Jan. 30, 1975

Someone's in the kitchen with Wellman: Chef Paul Cooper of Hubbard House in Allegan says he is still learning how to cook after 43 years experience in the food business at some of the finest restaurants in the area.

And if experience and a volatile disposition are any indication, area connoisseurs are indeed fortunate to have Chef Cooper in their midst.

Hubbard House owner William Wellman said he knew he had a good chef the day Cooper chased a salesman who lied to him out of his kitchen and out of the building with a butcher knife.

"A good chef is very temperamental; if they're not they're too dumb," Wellman believes. "When things go wrong, he goes right through the ceiling. He's an excellent chef; you know what a good cook I am, but I come here to eat now that he's in the kitchen."

The local chef, who has lived in the Kalamazoo area most of his life and now lives in Gobles, began his career in 1932 at the exclusive Park Club in Kalamazoo, where, he recalls, he earned $12 a month to start.

"Chefs are always in demand and I've worked at a log of eating places in and around Kalamazoo," Cooper relates. He came to Hubbard House Jan. 2 from The Black Swan in Kalamazoo, where he was preparation cook.

Feb. 3, 2000

Allegan composers win honorable mention: Two Allegan six graders have gained a bit of fame as songwriters by earning honorable mention for elementary-level compositions in a contest sponsored by the Kalamazoo Symphany Orchestra.

Peggy O'Callaghan, a student at Freedom Baptist Schools in Hudsonville, and Meredith Mancuso, a student at L.E. White Middle School in Allegan, wrote "Bright Scottish Morn," a duet for piano, as an assignment from their piano teacher, Nan Toman of Allegan, who urged her students to write compositions for the contest.

The competition included middle/high school and elementary level composers from throughout the area. Forty-seven students entered.

Two winners, one from each category, were chosen to have their compositions performed at the 2000 KSO Youth Concerts from Feb. 28 to March 3. Four honorable mentions were named for the middle/high school category, and three—including Mancuso and O'Callaghan—were named for the elementary-level category.

As the title indicates, the composition has a Scottish sound to it. It begins simply with a melody that sounds like bagpipes and then adds harmony.

Jan. 30, 2020

Gorgas, Comerford qualify for Pan American Cup: Corey Gorgas and Alex Comerford have been racing against each other since middle school.

Now, the two running standouts will represent Team USA at the Pan American Cup in Victoria, British Columbia on Feb. 29, as members of the U-20 lineup.

Saugatuck graduate Gorgas and Otsego grad Comerford were among the top six finishers in the 8,000-meter Men's Junior race at the USATF Cross Country Championships in San Diego on Saturday, Jan. 18, thereby earning their places on Team USA.

Gorgas, a redshirt freshman at Northern Arizona University, turned in a time of 25 minutes, 44.8 seconds to take the top spot in the race. Comerford, a redshirt freshman at Syracuse, placed fourth at 26:40.7.

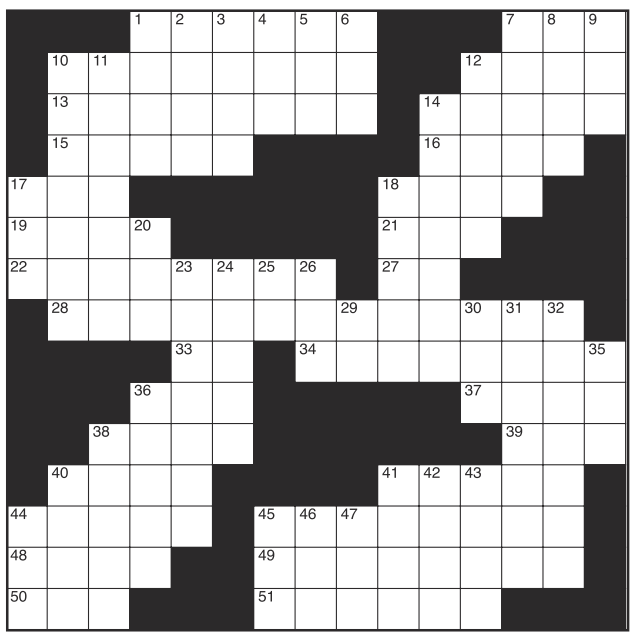
A third Michigan runner—East Grand Rapids senior Evan Bishop—placed second with a time of 26:21.6, meaning three of the six qualifiers in the Junior Division hail from the Great Lakes State.

"Those are guys that I have been really good friends and competitors with since middle school," Gorgas told DyeStat.com. "I've known those guys for a long time, so it's really fun to come out here, across the country, and get to compete with the same guys who helped me start out my running career early on."

Gorgas and Comerford were both competing in their first cross country races in more that a year.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's 'The A-Team' character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN
1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. 'Transformers' director Michael
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. 'Talk to you'
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

■ see **Solution**, Page B6

Deaths

Dec. 24, 2024
WANDA RUTH WINN, 74, Allegan Twp.

Dec. 26, 2024
JAMES HERBERT LIEPE, 78, Casco Twp.

Jan. 3, 2025
AARON EUGENE SMITH, 53, Clyde Twp.
DEBRA F ADAMS, 67, Cheshire Twp.

Jan. 9, 2025
GERTRUDE JEAN VANDERBIE, 90, Laketown Twp.
BRIAN KEITH LITTLE, 63, Cheshire Twp.

Jan. 13, 2025
DONNA MAE OVERMYER, 82, Allegan Twp.

Jan. 14, 2025
KAREN UTE VANDEWALKER, 87, Holland
DOROTHY ANN TERPAK, 77, Salem Twp.

Jan. 15, 2025
LORENA MARGARET BOERSMA, 95, Salem Twp.

Jan. 16, 2025
SHARON LEE FRIEL, 85, Watson Twp.
JAMES LEROY FERRIER, 86, Leighton Twp.

Jan. 18, 2025
ALVIN JOSEPH SCHUMACHER SR, 86, Dorr Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 14 and Jan. 22:

CAMILLE MARIE DELAPLANE, Holland, and **ROYCE EVERETT JOHNSON**, Norton Shores
DARRIN SCOTT ROSE, Otsego, and **SANDY LYNN BEEMAN**, Otsego
JOEL CARTER MILLER, Caledonia, and **LILIYA SKUBYAK**, Caledonia
MATTHEW JAMES HAGGER, Holland, and **YUSNEIDYS PATRICIA TEJEDA GODOY**, Holland
BRIAN DAVID JOHNSON, Pullman, and **AMY ELIZABETH WIDEMAN**, Pullman
DILLON STEWART CHARLES OLMSTEAD, Otsego, and **CODIE DANIELLE BARRON**, Kalamazoo
EVERNA LYNN MARI GRAY, Allegan, and **DONALD RUSSELL SALISBURY**, Three Rivers
MICHAEL JASON HARTWICK, Allegan, and **KIMBERLY HO-SOOK MITCHELL**, Lansing
LILLY IRENE WILLMARTH, Wayland, and **JAMES WILLIAM JOHNSON IV**, Wayland
JONATHAN ANGEL MENDOZA, Pullman, and **DESTINY FAITH SHELDON**, Holland
BRIAN JOSEPH GIRARD, Dorr, and **CATHERINE SUZANNE POTGETER**, Dorr

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

		3	4				2	
		5	8		2			
				7	1			
5	2		7					
			9					8
6		9						
4						3		
	7					2	6	1
9			2			7		

(See Solution Page B6)

RELIGION SECTION

I like Psalm 29, sort of. It is God's word, and all of it is absolutely true when we read about God's attributes in his mighty acts: Fire, floods, lightning and thunder, and earthquake. Sometimes, however, I wonder if God is truly behind floods and fires, fires started by lightning or arsonists, and earthquakes that can leave cities destroyed and thousands dead or injured. I still ponder that one.

I also find the power and majesty of God on very calm and cloudless nights. If the air is clear, the stars are magnificently bright, and seemingly so close we could almost reach up and grab hold of one. Or, on a still night (or very early morning) after a snowstorm, and I am the only person in our area out with a shovel. Sometimes I can hear the scrape, scrape, scrape sound of someone a block away, also doing their driveway.

I find the power of God looking across a field in the warmer months, and the sounds of the pre-dawn chorus of the early birds. Plus, the late-night cheepers.

My favorite uncle inspired me to find the power of God in a traffic jam. He encouraged me to put aside my impatience and look at the cars around all us. "Look at the design work that went into them; the hours an engineer or draftsman spent converting a concept to a sketch to a drawing for the machinists." He never convinced me of that until much later when I realized he was right.

Still, I believe God's power and majesty can be found anywhere and everywhere. Even so, right now after the devastating fires, and then an earthquake in southern California, it is very hard for most people to see God's majesty, and even harder to praise him for it.

Whether it is a placid lake, a quiet night, or a devastating fire and natural disaster, all of it is a reminder that we are not the Creator, and certainly not the proverbial center of the universe. That belongs to God alone.

Perhaps that explains why men and women of great faith can stand in front of the aftermath of a great disaster and move forward. My favorite story of faith and courage in these situations comes from the aftermath the Chicago Fire of 1871. (It was at the same time as a fire in Peshtigo, Wisconsin and Holland, Michigan.) Department store owner Marshall Fields stood in front of the smoldering ruins on State Street, turned to the people around him and said, "On this site I will build the world's greatest department store." The next day he went to work and built his store.

God's power and majesty are all around us. It is up to us to use what God has set before us, for good or evil The choice is ours to make.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 521-7657

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

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NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan